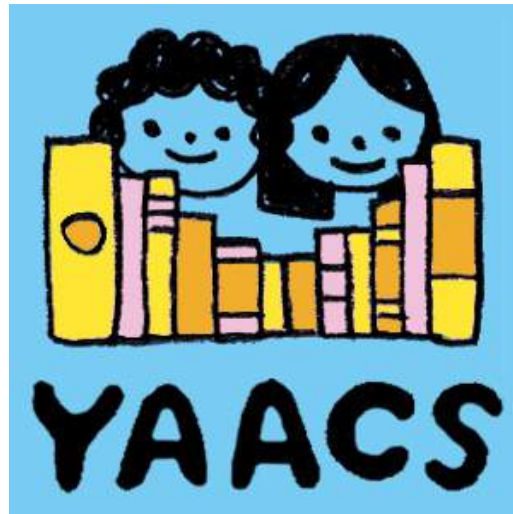


# YAAACIN9

magazine for the young adult and children  
services section of BCLA



summer 2025



YAACING is the magazine of the Young Adults and Children's Services section of the British Columbia Library Association. We publish articles by library workers serving children and teens and students in library professional and paraprofessional programs. Topics range from program and event report-backs, to book reviews, storytime ideas, literacy tips and more! If you would like to submit something for consideration, please email: [yaacing@gmail.com](mailto:yaacing@gmail.com)

# Contents



## Letters

Letter from Emily Gow, YAACING Co-Chair

Letter from Veronica Blott, YAACING Editor

## Announcements

2025 YAACS Award Winner Announcement - YAACS  
Award Committee

## Columns

I'll Link to That - Lindsey Krabbenhoft

New and Noteworthy Books - Sadie Tucker

## Features

Sarah's Storytime Spot - Sarah Bagshaw

Tween Fan Party - Jam Doughty, Tiffany Tse, Dana Ionson

Cultivating Relationships with Caregivers in Storytime  
- Tess Prendergast

Shelve by Number: Adding Series Stickers to Middle  
Grade Fiction - Laura Weisgarber



YAACING's editors would like to acknowledge that we work on the traditional, ancestral and unceded territory of the Coast Salish peoples including the Sk̓w̓x̓wú7mesh (Squamish), Stó:lō and Səl̓ílwətaʔ/Selilwitulh (Tseil-Waututh) and x̓məθkʷəy̓əm (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](http://native-land.ca)

# Follow Us!



/bcyaacs



/user/YAACSWeb



/yaacsbc



/yaacs



/yaacsbc

**Something to share on social media?**



yaacsweb@gmail.com



## Help Us Plan The Future of YAACS!

What age group(s) do you work with?  
Have you seen our new YAACING submission guidelines? When time works for you to join our monthly meetings?

We want to hear from you, the readers, to better help plan for the future of YAACS and the YAACING Magazine! [Follow this link](#) to complete a short survey to better help us plan meetings and create new issues.



# Letters

## Letter from Emily Gow, YAACS Co-Chair

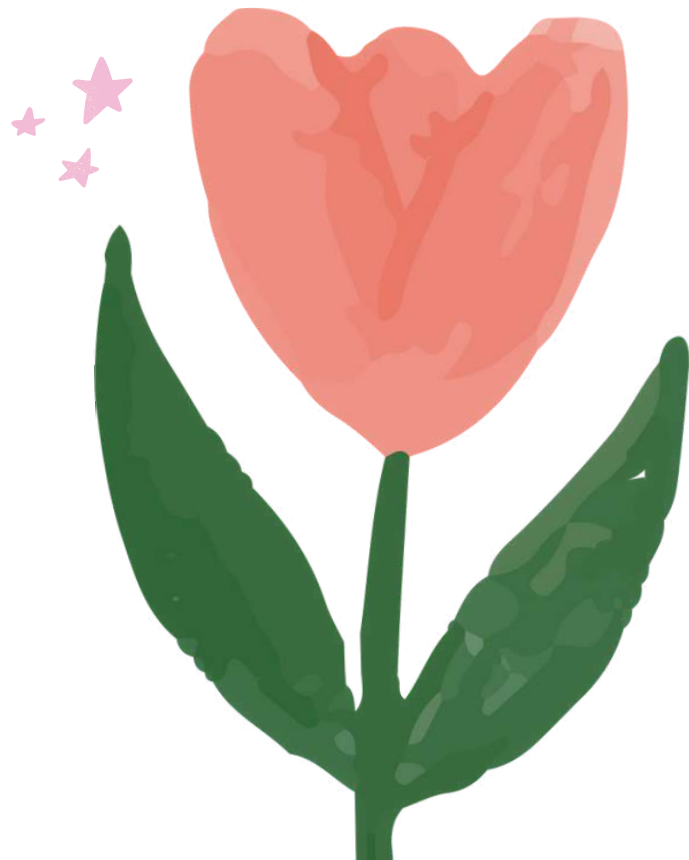


Dear YAACING Readers,

Congratulations on another successful summer reading club! It has been so fun hearing about all the different ways you have interpreted “Colour Your Summer”. From displays to programs, the creativity amongst library staff never ceases to amaze me. Please keep sharing all of your amazing ideas - through the forum, YAACING or even in a conference presentation!

If presenting at a conference sounds overwhelming, join us for the September 24<sup>th</sup> YAACS meeting to learn more about how to write a proposal and what it is like to present at a conference. You probably have a lot more to share than you think!

Emily Gow



# Letters



## Letter from Veronica Blott, YAACING Editor

Hey y'all,

Summer has wound down, SRC medals have been handed out and YAACING has acquired another batch of wonderful articles! First, we have a feature on this years YAACING Award Winner - congratulations to Chris Miller! Then we hear from Lindsay Krabbenhoft about communication and writing in plain language and we have another stellar list of new & noteworthy titles from Sadie Tucker.

We also have a new spotlight from Sarah Bagshaw, this time on the work of “authostrator” Jan Thomas. After that Jam Doughty, Tiffany Tse and Dana Ionson have put together a guide on hosting Tween Fan Parties, from K-pop to Taylor Swift, and Tess Prendergast discusses cultivating relationships with caregivers during storytime. Finally, Laura Weisgarber walks us through the process of adding series stickers to all the middle grade fiction materials at Prince George Public Library.

Thank you to our cover artist, Marita and our Art Director, Justin, for making this issue look as amazing as always!

If you are ever interested in submitting to YAACING Magazine, please don't hesitate to email me anytime at [yaacing@gmail.com](mailto:yaacing@gmail.com).

Happy reading!

Veronica Blott



# Announcements

## 2025 YAACS Award Winner Announcement YAACS Award Committee



The YAACS Award was established in 2012 and aims to recognize a commitment to outstanding patron service, collaboration and partnerships with community and supporting organizations, and innovative and creative work that promotes family literacy in all its forms. The YAACS Executive wishes to congratulate the winner of this year's award: **Chris Miller of Coquitlam Public Library**. Born in Saskatchewan, Chris moved to British Columbia in 1997, where he worked as a newspaper reporter for several years before returning to university for his M.L.I.S. He has dedicated over twenty years of service as a librarian at Coquitlam Public Library, having started working there in 2004 - first as a young adult services specialist, then as the youth services lead.

The YAACS Award Committee felt that Chris' long-term and tangible impact on multiple generations and many hundreds of children and teenage patrons' lives was particularly deserving of recognition.





Chris' multiple nominators noted his popular programs, often led while wearing a very tall wizard's hat, that help to bring children and teens together, such as the Reading Buddy Program, a Homework Help program, and a successful French-language program called "Parlez-Nous en Francais". They especially highlighted his robust Teen Advisory Committee that involves more than 100 teens each year. Through his work with this committee, Chris teaches the teenagers key leadership, community connection, programming, and life skills.

As many librarians know, keeping teenagers involved in their local library is not always an easy feat, but Chris has continually formed long-lasting connections with children and teens in his community who all remember him as they grow up. Generous with his time and efforts, he makes writing many reference letters for university and scholarship applications a key part of his work.

Chris' colleagues referred to him as the "heart of the library" and noted his eagerness to work in collaboration with his co-workers and in sharing his ideas. They also highlighted his famous annual "Free Comic Book Day" display and event. In Chris' own words, he "loves being in a community full of new Canadians and has an uncommonly high regard for teenagers due to the fantastic volunteers he works with almost every week!" Thank you for your exceptional service and congratulations, Chris!

**2025 YAACS Award Committee**

Andria Huculak (Chair)  
Vanessa Bedford Gill  
Kate Differ  
Mel Edgar  
Madeline Ewanyslyn

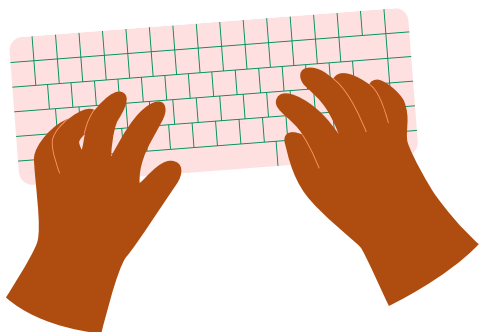
# Columns



## I'll Link to That - Lindsey Krabbenhoft

One of my professional development goals this year is to become a better communicator. We do so much communicating in the library - to fellow staff, to caregivers, to kids, and to the general public - that it behooves us to continually work on improving our written and spoken delivery. When we help people find what they need, build community relationships, collaborate with colleagues, and navigate challenging situations, strong communication skills allow us to do a better job.

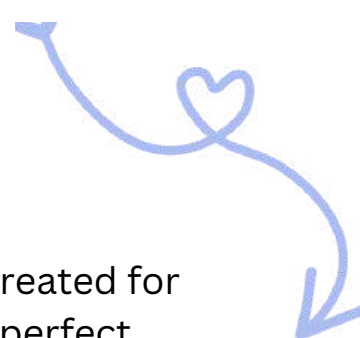
When I attended the OLA Superconference in January I went to a presentation on plain language. That kicked off a communication learning journey for me, and I'd like to share the resources that I've found particularly helpful. All of these are from outside the public library sphere. We have so much to learn from other fields.



### **Plain Language and Design for Post-Secondary**

If you do a lot of writing in your job, this online handbook is your new best friend. It shows you how to make your writing easier to understand and walks you through the fundamentals of plain language. I read this handbook as my first introduction to the concept of plain language and it has changed the way I think about emails.





### Plain Language Course

Brought to you by our very own BC government. Although created for government workers, this short, self-paced online course is perfect for learning the basic principles of plain language.

### Plainlanguage.gov

The U.S. government's guide to the same topic. This site offers tips, before-and-after examples, and guidelines on how to write plainly for the public.

### The Non-designer's Design Book

If you are in charge of designing any of your library's posters or social media content, I highly recommend following the advice of author Robin Williams. There are tons of visual examples in the book that clearly illustrate the design principles.

### Supercommunicators by Charles Duhigg

A book to change your life! Duhigg argues that great communicators—"supercommunicators"—don't just speak clearly; they instinctively recognize what kind of conversation is happening (informational, emotional, or social) and respond in ways that build trust and connection. Sound familiar? It's what we strive to do every day at the reference desk, in storytimes, in meetings, and with our communities. Highly recommended.



If you've got any great resources or recommendations for building communication skills, I am all ears at [jbrary@gmail.com](mailto:jbrary@gmail.com).



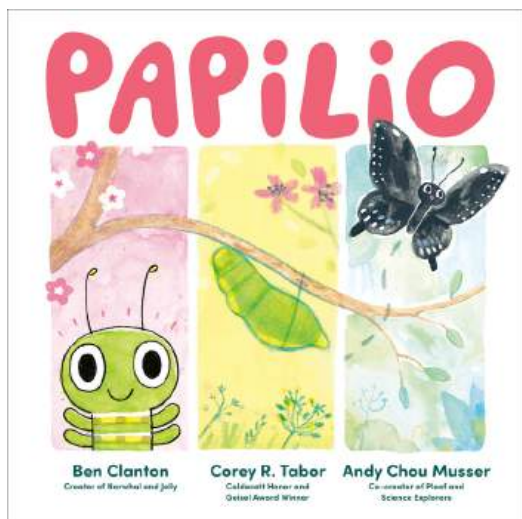
# Columns

## New and Noteworthy Books - Sadie Tucker



So many new books, so little time... Join me while I grow my teetering TBR pile. - *Sadie is children's librarians at the Vancouver Public Library and Burnaby Public Library*

- ✿ The author and/or illustrator is Canadian.
- ✿ (I) The author and/or illustrator is from an Indigenous culture whose traditional lands lie partially or completely in what we now call Canada.



### Picture Books – Babies & Preschoolers

#### **Papilio**

Clanton, Ben

3-7 years

Told over three chapters (Caterpillar, Chrysalis, Butterfly), each one illustrated by a different artist, this story follows a caterpillar called Papilio as they hatch from their egg, build a chrysalis, and eventually discover their wings. The illustrations add light touches of humour as they contrast with Papilio's narration. Themes of persistence through fear and failure permeate the tale.

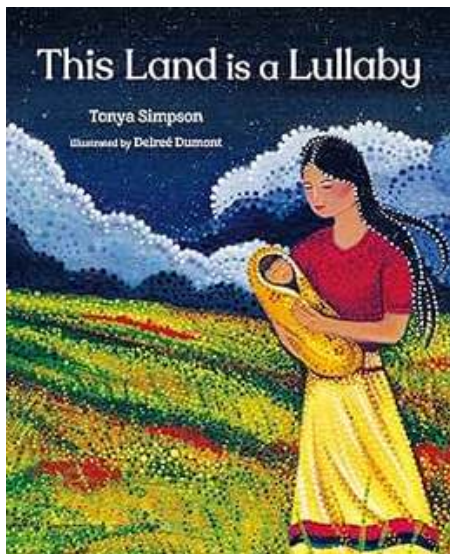
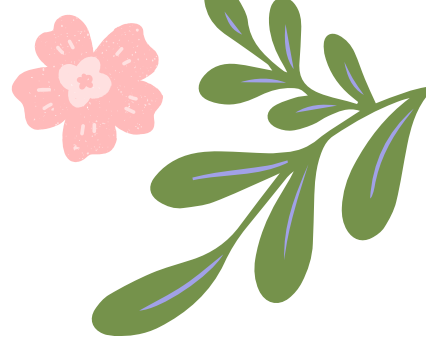
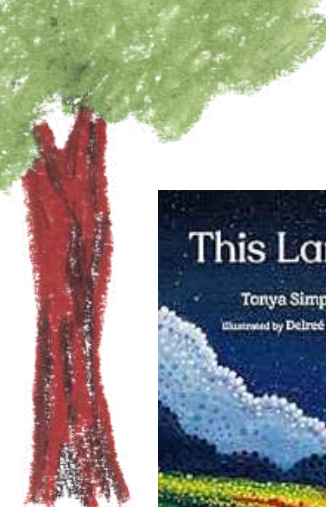


#### **Let's Be Bees**

Harris, Shawn

3-5 years

A parent and child pretend to be a variety of animals and objects, all with associated sounds. A fun book that encourages caregivers to lean into pretend play. The illustrations are not high-contrast, so probably best for small to medium size groups.

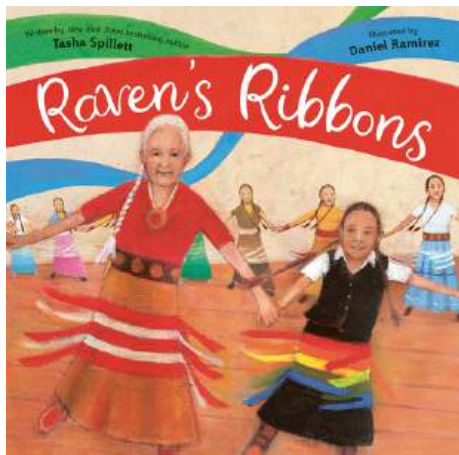


**This Land is a Lullaby** 🍁(I)

Simpson, Tonya

3-6 years

A sweet lullaby that describes how nature soothes and is part of us. The pointillism illustrations are lovely, but are unfortunately not ideal for group reading.



**Raven's Ribbons** 🍁(I)

Spillett, Tasha

3-6 years

Raven loves round dances and admires the ribbon skirts that many of the women wear. His grandma is well-known for the ribbon skirts that she makes, each one unique and suited to the individual. Would Nohkum be willing to make a ribbon skirt for Raven, even though he is a boy? A warm story.



**It's Powwow Time!** 🍁(I)

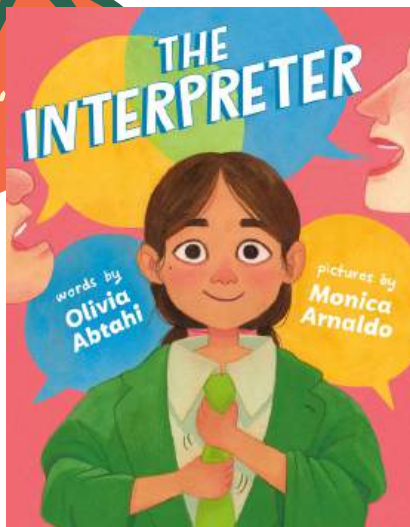
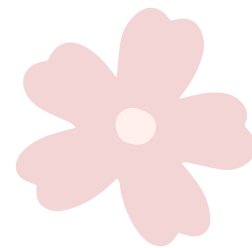
Troian, Martha

3-7 years

Bineshii is going to a powwow today! His mother gets him up early while his grandmother cooks breakfast and then they are on the road. Once at the powwow, he observes the people and food. Soon, the music draws him in and he begins to dance. A warm account of a child's powwow experience. The illustrations are suitable for small group reading.



## Picture Books – Big(ger) Kids



### **The Interpreter**

Abtahi, Olivia

5-9 years

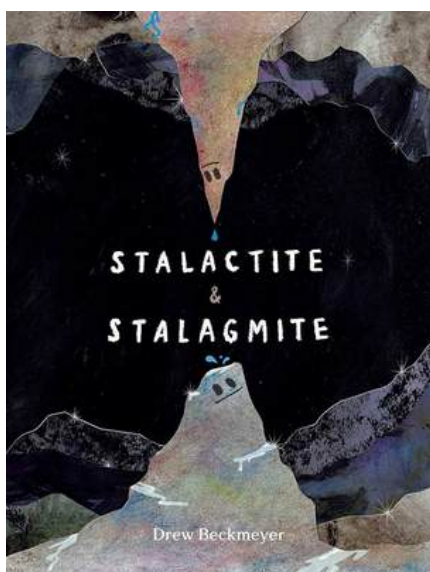
Cecilia has two jobs: Being a kid and working as her parents' interpreter. Ever since her older sibling went away to college, the workload at her second job has been high. During a parent-teacher meeting, Cecilia's frustration with not having enough time to be a kid bursts out.

### **Stalactite & Stalagmite: a Big Tale from a Little Cave**

Beckmeyer, Drew

5-10 years

Over the span of millions of years, a stalactite and stalagmite slowly grow closer to each other. Their friendship spans from before biological life up to (and maybe past?) the rise of human civilisation. Along the way, they encounter a variety of creatures. A thought-provoking look at evolution and change, accompanied by some excellent scientific facts. This could work as a read-aloud if the narrator is good at voices.

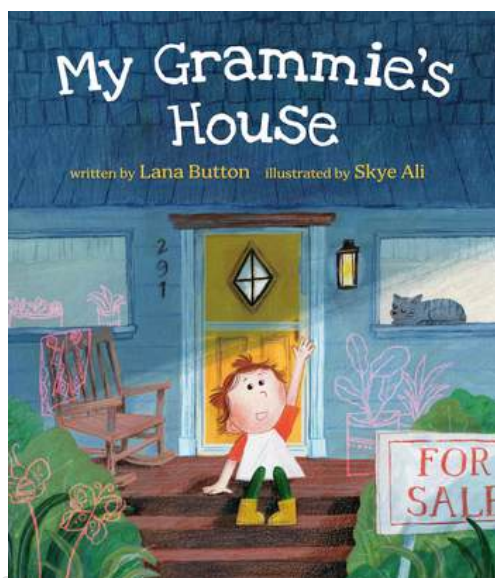


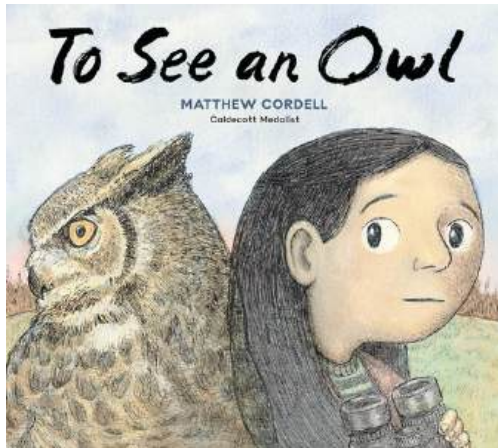
### **My Grammie's House** 🍁

Button, Lana

4-8 years

While viewing a house for sale, a couple is approached by a child who offers to give them a tour of her Grammie's house. What follows is a spirited description about all of the great things it contains (like "a kitchen floor for skating"). The house is largely devoid of furniture but pink sketches outline where the absent items once sat. A cheery book that opens the door to a deeper discussion about how good memories stick around even when a loved one is no longer near and how change can be good (at the end, it is clear that the couple have become beloved neighbours).



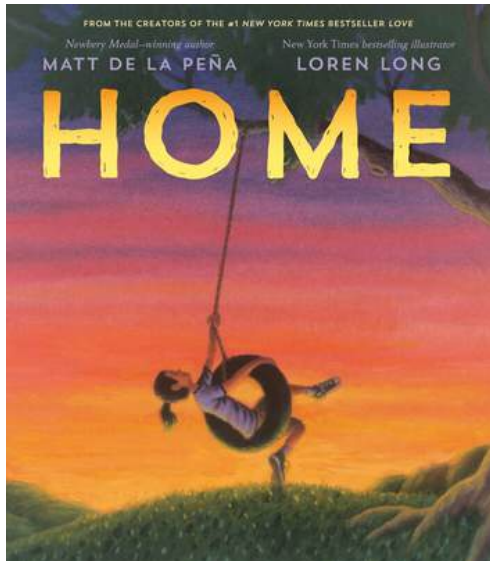


### To See an Owl

Cordell, Matthew

4-7 years

Janie has been interested in owls for as long as she can remember. She loves reading about them and learning about them, and she really wants to see a real one. Over the span of months, and accompanied by her sometimes reluctant mother, Janie goes on multiple birding trips but never manages to see one. In consultation with her teacher, also an avid birder, she decides to check a spot in the woods that she has previously visited. Will this be the time? A gentle, lyrical book about one girl's passion.

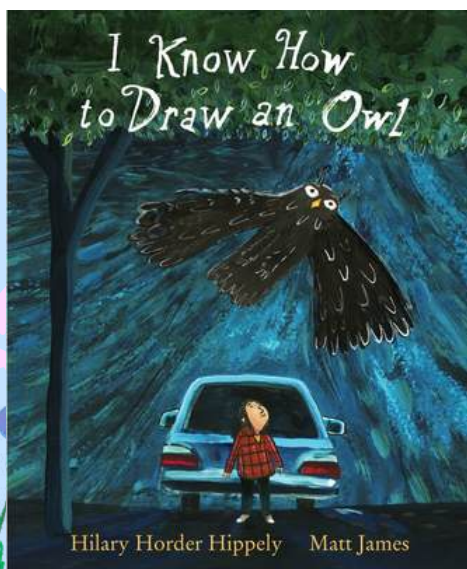


### Home

de la Peña, Matt

5-9 years

The word "home" can mean something different to different people: For one, the sound of a freight train might elicit fond memories, while quiet moments reading on the beach might lead to nostalgia for another. Meanwhile, the pain of a losing one's home is profound, regardless of what shape it took. This thoughtful reflection on the concept of home depicts a variety of homes, including a houseboat and a semi-truck.



### I Know How to Draw an Owl 🍁

Hippely, Hilary Horder

4-8 years

When Belle's teacher asks her how she managed to draw an owl with such lifelike eyes, Belle chooses not to tell her. To the reader, Belle reveals that she and her mother live in their car. Every night, they hear owl hoots, but one evening she was able to see one up close. When a new student arrives in a heavily packed car, Belle understands why they are uncomfortable and provides a friendly face.

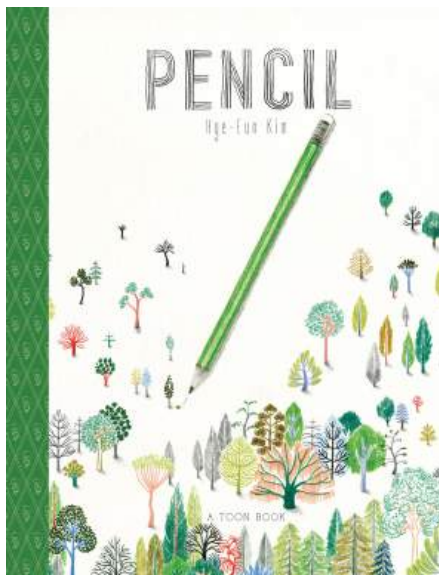


## Thank You, Everything

Icinori

5-9 years

What seems to be a simple book of gratitude ("Thank you, colors... Thank you, bed") gradually becomes an adventure as a traveller parachutes from a storm-struck plane ("Thank you, parachute") and finds themselves in wilderness. As the protagonist thanks everything they encounter (including wild animals and fear itself), the reader wonders if they will successfully make it back to civilisation.

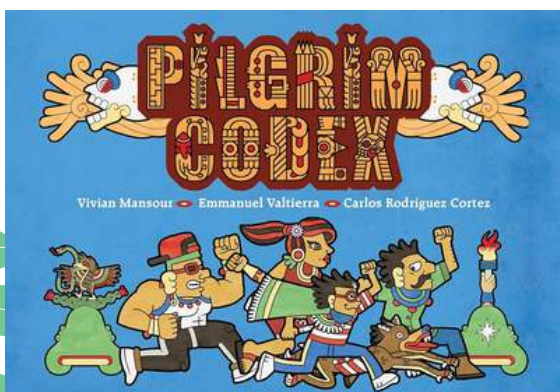


## Pencil

Kim, Hye-Eun

4-9 years

A lovely wordless meditation. The shavings of a green pencil flutter down to make leaves which soon become a forest. As the pages turn, the forest is logged and the resulting wood is brought to a factory where coloured pencils are produced. Now in an art store, some of the pencils are chosen by a young girl. What will she create?



## Pilgrim Codex

Mansour Manzur, Vivian

8+ years

A child documents their family's long and perilous journey through Mexico to the United States. The story uses metaphors and references Mexican folklore, making this a potentially challenging read for those unfamiliar with Mexican culture or the experiences of undocumented immigrants from Mexico or South America. Text is accompanied by illustrations inspired by ancient Mesoamerican codexes. A tense, evocative story that is well worth the effort. Sure to inspire reflection and discussion.





### **What Makes a Bird? 🍁**

Pomper, Megan

5-9 years

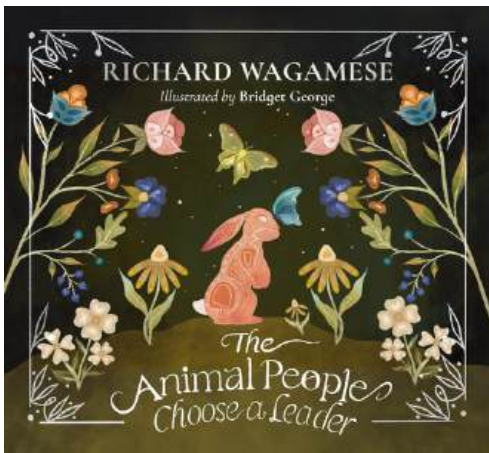
What makes a bird? Is it the feathers, the beak, the fact that it lay eggs? A reflective narrator ponders the definition of bird and how to apply it to, well, birds. There is a neat confluence of elements here that will serve well in a biology unit or as a discussion starter about the meaning and definition of words.

### **The Animal People Choose a Leader 🍁(I)**

Wagamese, Richard

6+ years

At one point in the Long Ago Time, the Animal People decided that they needed a leader. In order to choose this leader, Eagle creates an arduous race. Everyone is surprised when Waabooz the rabbit decides to join. As the larger contestants speedily complete the first two rounds, Waabooz takes her time and observes everything around her. Why did she volunteer for a race that she has no hope of winning? Beautiful illustrations round out this mindful story.



### **School Age – Primary ✨**

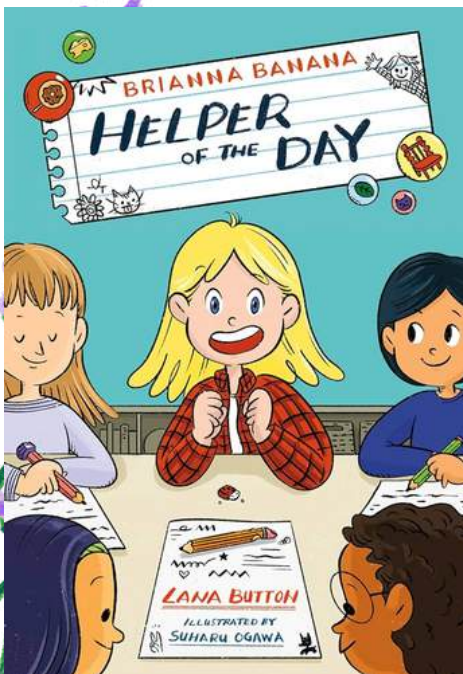
### **Brianna Banana, Helper of the Day 🍁**

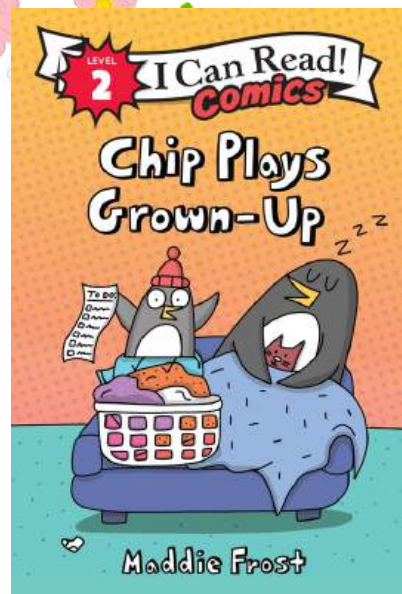
Button, Lana

7-10 years

Chapter book/Contemporary

Third-grader Brianna doesn't have friends and is often called "Brianna Banana" due to her height and blond hair. She also struggles to behave in class, often succumbing to sudden impulses. When a new student joins the class and is chosen to be Helper of the Day (a position that Brianna covets), Brianna ends up making a new friend rather unexpectedly. Kirkus says, "Button attempts a tough balancing act: keeping her protagonist sympathetic in spite of her many mistakes and crafting a nuanced, wholly believable character within a relatively short page count. She triumphs."





### Chip Plays Grown-Up

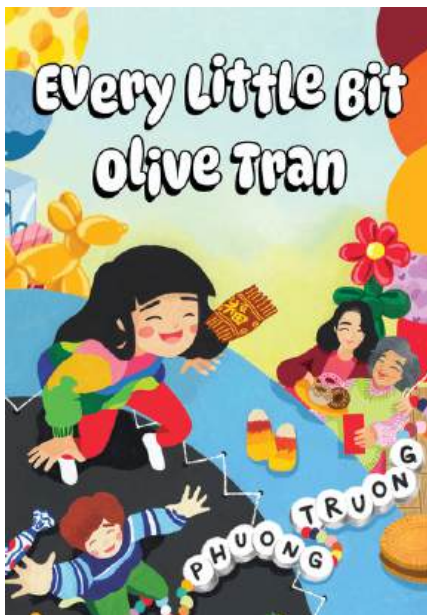
Frost, Maddie  
Reader/Graphic novel  
3-6 years years

Chip doesn't want to go to bed. He isn't tired and is in the middle of doing "office work". He would much rather stay up and watch TV like adults do. When Chip suggests that Mom be the kid and he be the grown-up, she agrees. Turns out, being the grown-up isn't quite as easy as it looks. An adorably tongue-in-cheek book that will have both kids and adults smiling.

### Every Little Bit Olive Tran 🍁

Truong, Phuong  
7-9 years

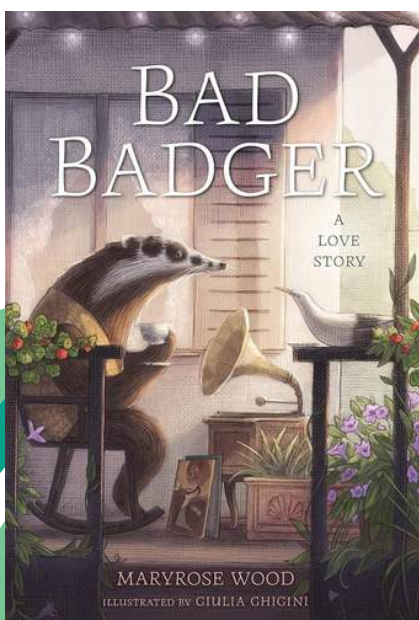
Chapter Book/Contemporary  
Olive is SO EXCITED to be turning 10. Soon, she will be able to walk to the candy store all on her own! When her family reluctantly reveals that their neighbour Mrs. Ly didn't just trip but was pushed due to anti-Asian hate, Olive is thrown in a tailspin. Not only does she now need to think about whether she feels safe walking on her own, she realises that her family has been trying to protect her by keeping secrets. On top of that, her best friend is being weird and it seems like it might be related to the recent racist incidents. *Quill & Quire* describe the story as "joyful and celebratory" despite the serious themes.



### Bad Badger

Wood, Maryrose  
7-10 years  
Animal fiction

Septimus knows that he isn't a very good badger: He has spots where he should have stripes, lives by the sea instead of in the woods, and adores opera. When a seagull, who Septimus dubs "Gully", appears a friendship develops. But Septimus continues to be haunted by his insecurities. When Gully goes missing, Septimus must push past his fears to find out what happened. Reviewers have noted it as a read-alike for *Frog and Toad* and *Skunk and Badger*. Occasional sketch illustrations add whimsy. A truly sweet read!



## School Age Fiction – Intermediate:



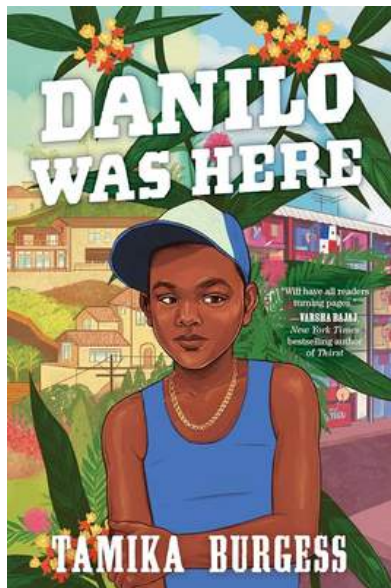
### **It's All or Nothing, Vale**

Arango, Andrea Beatriz

Contemporary fiction

10-13 years

7th-grader Vale has returned to fencing after a serious motor bike accident. Before the accident, she was indisputably the best fencer at her gym; now, she is struggling to navigate chronic pain and a body that doesn't move the way that it used to. Who is she, if not a champion?



### **Danilo Was Here**

Burgess, Tamika

Historical fiction

9-12 years

Danilo has reluctantly accepted an offer to travel to the US to play baseball. Back home in Panamá, his mother and siblings are living in a refugee shelter following "Operation Just Cause"; meanwhile, his father, who moved to the US to find work, hasn't sent word or money in a long time. Facing culture shock and racism in his temporary home, Danilo does his best to rediscover his love of baseball and to track down his errant father.



### **The Other Side of Tomorrow**

Cho, Tina

Graphic novel/Historical/Adventure

10+ years

10-year-old Yunho and 11-year-old Myungho have both decided to escape North Korea. Both are fleeing the country's oppressive rule but their goals are quite different. Initially strangers, they agree to work together in the hopes of achieving freedom. The stakes couldn't be higher: Should they be caught, they will face the possibility of execution.



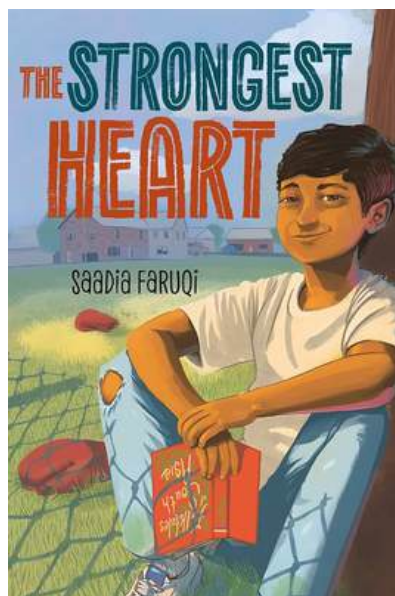
### **The Shape of Lost Things** 🍁

Everett, Sarah

Contemporary fiction

9-12 years

12-year-old Skye has felt like an inferior sub-in for her older brother, Finn, ever since he was kidnapped by their father four years ago. When, in the span of a single day, she discovers that her mom's boyfriend plans to propose and that her brother has been found, Skye is flung into a tailspin. With Finn home, things are different all over again and Skye's older brother is nothing like he was before. Is it possible that Finn isn't actually Finn?



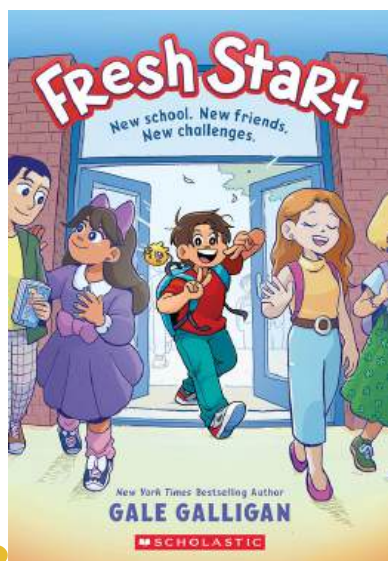
### **The Strongest Heart**

Faruqi, Saadia

10-13 years

Contemporary fiction

13-year-old Mo has just moved with his dad to Houston from New York to live with his aunt and cousin. Mo's dad has schizophrenia and frequently descends into rages. Meanwhile, Mo's mom has taken a 2-year contract out of country. Mo has a bad boy reputation and he's happy to maintain it. It ensures that no one pities him. As Mo settles into Texas, he is waiting for the other shoe to drop. Slowly, other adults in his life help him realise that old patterns don't need to endlessly repeat.



### **Fresh Start**

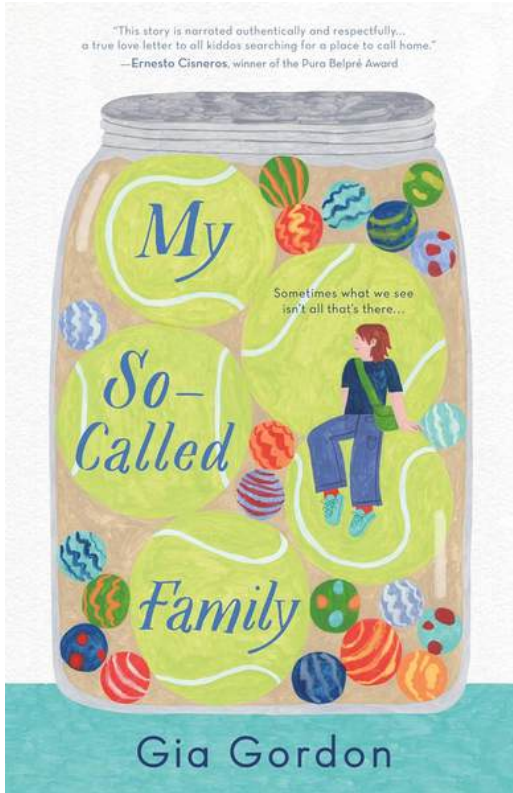
Galligan, Gale

Graphic novel/Contemporary/Humorous

8-12 years

12-year-old Ollie and her family are moving back to America after living in a variety of countries around the world. Ollie is exuberant and quirky and feels no desire to fit in. Why would she bother? She'll be moving again soon. When her parents reveal that they plan to stay put, Ollie struggles to figure out how to go about making and keeping long-term friends.





## My So-Called Family

Gordon, Gia

Contemporary

10-14 years

12-year-old Ash has been in foster care for years and been a temporary part of many different "families". Her current foster family features her foster mother's adult son who makes Ash very uncomfortable. School isn't much better as she's bullied for being "unfeminine". As time at her new school passes, Ash unexpectedly makes friends and encounters adults that she thinks she can trust. Is it possible that someone would listen to her if she spoke about her home life?

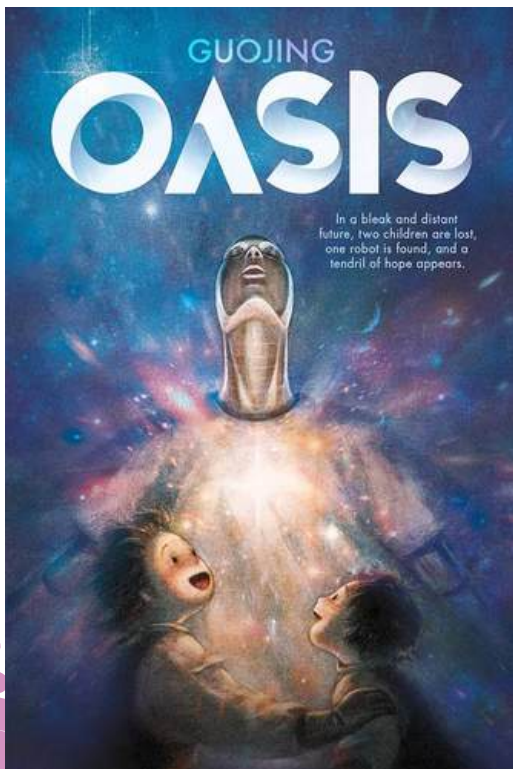
## Oasis

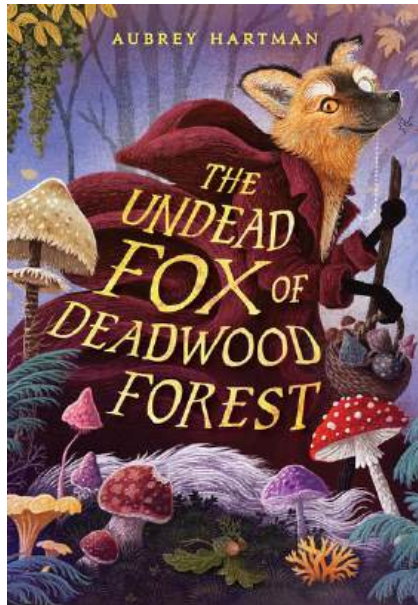
Guojing

Graphic novel/Fantasy

8-13 years

JieJie and DiDi fend for themselves in the desert as their mother toils underneath the Oasis, trying to earn her family a spot in the idyllic city. When the children find a discarded robot in the Oasis' landfill, they manage to get it working and suddenly they have the constant maternal presence that they have craved. When their mother returns, the new dynamic presents a challenge to their sense of family but also an opportunity for beneficial change. Reviewers have commended this title for being gentle and warm despite its serious themes and dystopian setting. The story is an allegory about the "left behind children" in many parts of the world, who are left in rural settings while their parents try to earn a living.





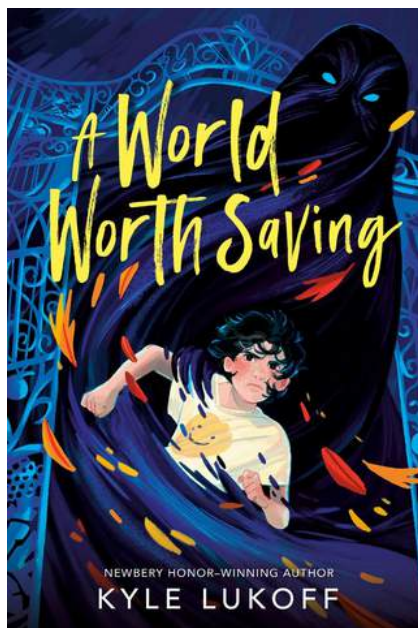
## **The Undead Fox of Deadwood Forest**

Hartman, Aubrey

Animal fiction/Fantasy

9-12 years

Clare was run over as a kit and, ever since, has served the role of usher in the Deadwood Forest: He guides dead animals to their ultimate destinations. When a spritely badger spirit arrives, Clare is perplexed to find that he cannot usher her into the afterlife. Upon consulting the visionary grouse in the woods, Clare is horrified to learn the reason why. Kirkus describes this story as "Heartbreaking, marvelously funny, and generously redemptive." The book blurb boldly recommends the title for fans of both Kate DiCamillo and Tim Burton (what a combo!).



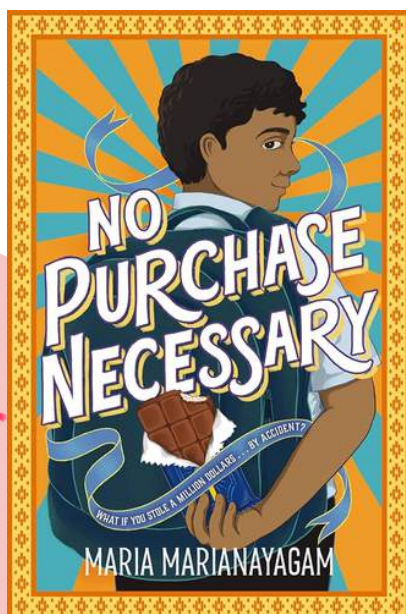
## **A World Worth Saving**

Lukoff, Kyle

Contemporary/Fantasy

10+ years

14-year-old A is trans and his family isn't happy about it. Every week, he and other trans kids attend meetings with Save Our Sons and Daughters (SOSD). When one of A's trans friends go missing, A's investigations lead him to discover that SOSD is actually a cover for a demon who feasts on misery. Alongside friends and a helpful golem, A sets out to set things right.



## **No Purchase Necessary** 🍁

Marianayagam, Maria

Historical fiction

10+ years

8th-grader Ajay struggles to meet his parents' high expectations while also fitting in at his new school. In a moment of impulse, driven by his urge to impress a popular kid, Ajay steals a chocolate bar. Upon discovering that the chocolate bar he took may be the winner of a \$1 million contest, Ajay faces a dilemma: Should he take the cash that could change his family's life or come clean?

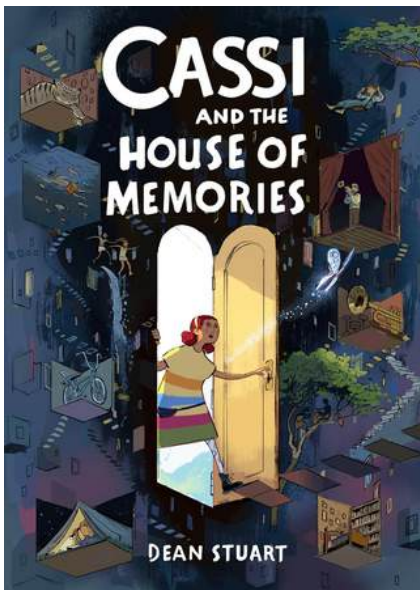


### **A Song for You & I**

O'Neill, Kay

Graphic novel/Fantasy/Coming of age

Rowan is a ranger and dedicated to the principles of heroism and protecting nature. The time for their Name Carving Ceremony is near, but Rowan is uncertain. Everyone knows them as Rose, but they want to carve "Rowan". After an impulsive act leads to their flying horse being injured, Rowan is sent to work with a seemingly lazy shepherd by the name of Leone. Rowan resents being placed with Leone, but Leone has their own struggles. Together the two just might make peace with their inner turmoils.



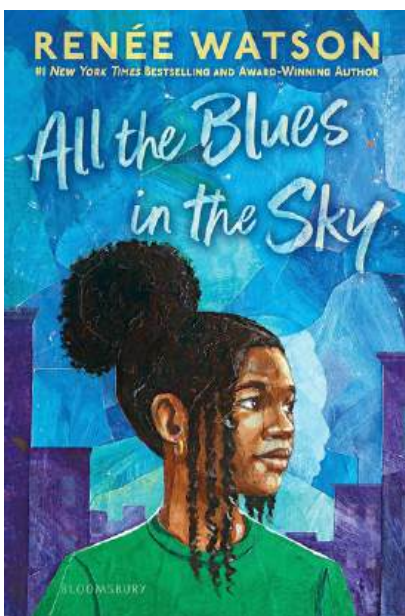
### **Cassi and the House of Memories**

Stuart, Dean

Graphic novel/Fabulism

9-12 years

Cassie and her grandfather are as close as can be, sharing interests and stories. During her most recent visit, it becomes clear that her grandfather is suffering from dementia. When he wanders away from the house, Cassie follows him and discovers a collection of his memories. As she explores his past, Cassie gains a deeper understanding of her grandfather and ensures that his life will never be forgotten - even if he can't remember it himself.



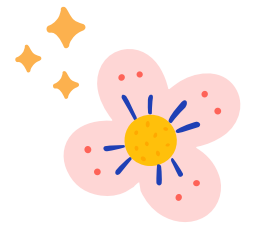
### **All the Blues in the Sky**

Watson, René

Novel in verse/Contemporary

10-14 years

The last thing Sage expected on her 13th birthday was for her best friend to be killed by a hit-and-run. How do you grieve when the person you need to lean on is the one who died? With the help of a grief support group, Sage begins the long, heart-breaking journey towards healing.



### High School

#### **Luscious Love** 🍁

Bakolias, Katerina

Hi-lo/Romance/Contemporary

12+ years

Mina is excited to start her sales job at Luscious Lingerie, looking forward to spreading her wings and having a little spending money to boot. While there are aspects of her job that she enjoys, her coworker Lexie being a highlight, she finds the upselling, workplace tension, and emphasis on being slim to be a challenge. As Mina navigates the new waters of work and the old waters of her family's high expectations, she finds her outlook changing and growing.



#### **Recommended Reading**

Coccia, Paul

Romance/Humour

14+ years

17-year-old Bobby was going to start his summer right with a grand gesture for his crush. After his plans go horribly awry and he is soundly rebuffed, he resigns himself to working in his uncle's failing bookstore and lying low (even though that really isn't his vibe). When a professed anti-romantic begins frequenting the store and lurking in the romance section, Bobby wonders if he should revisit his summer plans. But is grumpy Luke up to handling sunny and exuberant Bobby?



#### **I Am the Swarm**

Chewins, Hayley

Novel in verse/Fantasy/Contemporary

14+ years

15-year-old Nell has dreaded coming into her magic. In her experience, magic is a curse - her mother constantly changes age and her sister literally bleeds music. When she discovers that her emotions are producing insects, it doesn't seem so bad at first. But all of the anger, fear, and pain that she has been holding inside due to her familial trauma and the abuse that she has been silently suffering at the hands of her piano teacher are about to come out.





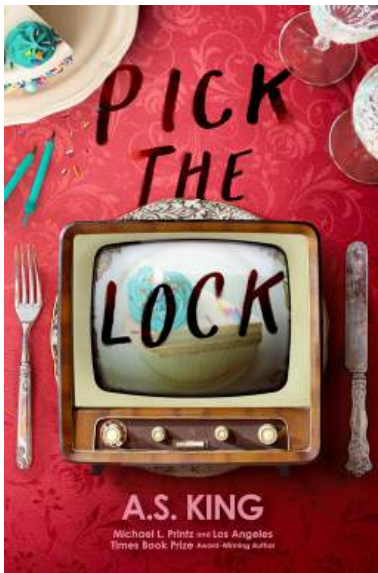
## Don't Let the Forest In

Drews, C.G.

Horror/Contemporary

14+ years

Andrew and Thomas are best friends and creative partners: Andrew writes macabre, twisted prose that Thomas then illustrates with appropriately horrifying artwork. But Thomas has stopped drawing and is returning to their boarding school late at night with mysterious injuries. When Andrew uncovers that Thomas' art has been coming to life, he joins him in fighting the dangerous creatures. As the situation and danger escalates, the friends are forced to face the possibility that the only way to stop the monsters is to cut them off at the source: Thomas.



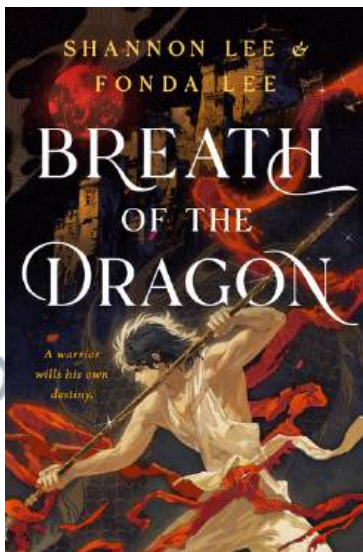
## Pick the Lock

King, A.S.

Fabulism/Surrealism

14+ years

16-year-old Jane lives in a virtual prison, spacious as it is, controlled by her father. Jane's mother is *actually* imprisoned in a system of pneumatic tubes whenever she is home from touring with her punk band. After discovering surveillance footage dating all the way back to before her birth, Jane decides to unravel her father's control over the household. Breaking his hold will require careful planning, persistence, and a punk opera.



## Breath of the Dragon

Lee, Shannon

Fantasy/Action

12+ years

16-year-old Jun lives exiled with his father, having been banished for practicing martial arts without a dragon breathmark. When the tournament to name the next protector of the Scroll of Earth is announced, Jun stows away on a wagon of musicians headed to the competition site. As Jun participates in the trials, he realizes that there is a lot more at stake than a prestigious position. School Library Journal calls this book a "straight shot of pure Shonen manga energy." First in a duology.



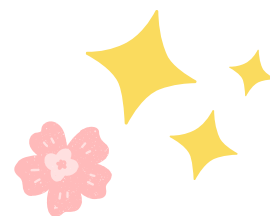
### **Everything is Poison**

McCullough, Joy

Historical fiction

14+ years

16-year-old Carmela is excited to apprentice in her mother's apothecary shop. As she learns the recipes and the trade, she is faced with difficult decisions and the painful realities of their clients. She also learns of the subtle, but very deadly poison that the shop provides to desperate women trying to escape their abusers. A number of reviewers commend this title for its nuanced depiction of ancient Rome and power dynamics, as well as the warm and supportive community that surrounds Carmela as she faces an impossible situation.



### **Leap**

Popescu, Simina

Graphic novel/Contemporary/Romance

14+ years

Set in Romania, Ana and Sara are both students at an elite boarding school for dance and have recently become roommates. In each other, they find a confidant. Ana has been with her girlfriend for three years, but they are both in the closet thanks to the dangers of coming out. Sara, meanwhile, is beginning to ponder her sexual orientation and feels conflicted about her growing feelings for her dancing mentor.



### **The Dividing Sky**

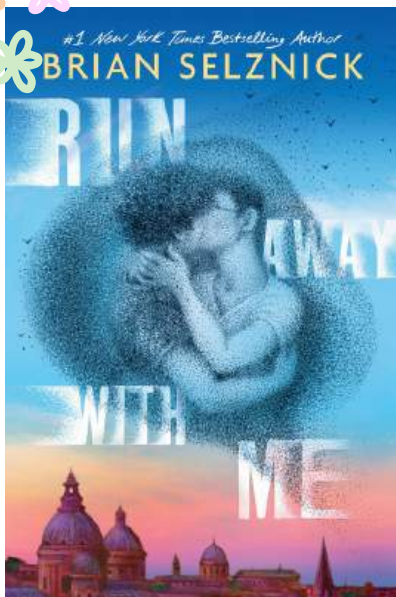
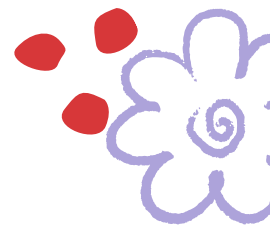
Tew, Jull

Dystopian/Romance/Adventure

13+ years

18-year-old Liv sells memories, most of them legal. Adrian is a new Forceman and dedicated to his job. When Liv accepts a dangerous assignment in the Outerlands, Adrian follows her trail, suspecting that she has something to do with recent brain chemistry disruptions. When the two are thrown into a tumultuous situation, they are faced with both survival and their growing feelings for each other.





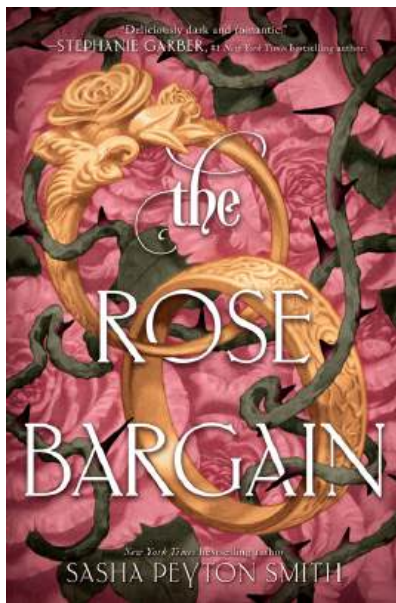
### **Run Away with Me**

Selznick, Brian

Illustrated fiction/Historical/Romance

14+ years

16-year-old American Danny, who doesn't speak Italian, is in the city of Rome and has time to kill while his mother restores books for a local museum. What promises to be a boring summer turns into a time he will forever remember after meeting Angelo, an Italian teen who claims to be 300 years old. As their romance takes on a life of its own, Angelo regales Danny with stories from the past. Selznick accompanies this emotionally complex tale with his trademark illustrations. Some GoodReads reviewers found the historical tales unengaging, so this title likely isn't for fans of fast-paced narratives.



### **The Rose Bargain**

Smith, Sasha Peyton

Fantasy/Romance/Alternate historical

13+ years

18-year-old Ivy assumed that she would never marry, but after the scandalous disappearance of her older sister, her family's hopes rest on her shoulders. Entering the marriage mart is not for the faint of heart: Before courting begins, young women make a bargain with the country's faerie queen, exchanging some part of themselves for an attribute that will help them achieve a marriage proposal. When the queen announces that her charming fae son is looking for a wife, the risks and gains of the marriage season get much higher. First in a series, ends on a cliffhanger.



### **(S)kin**

Zoboi, Ibi Aanu

Novel in verse/Fantasy/Contemporary

12+ years

15-year-old Marisol yearns to distance herself from her mother, a soucouyant - a witch that sheds her skin once a month, bursts into flame, and feeds from humans' life forces. 17-year-old Genevieve yearns to learn about the mother she never knew while living with her white father, step-mother, and infant half-siblings. Genevieve also wonders why she always feels like flying away into the night. When Marisol's mother is hired as a nanny for Genevieve's siblings, explosive truths are revealed.



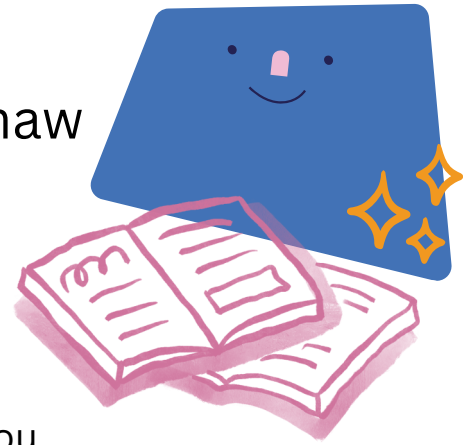


# Features

## Sarah's Storytime Spot - Sarah Bagshaw

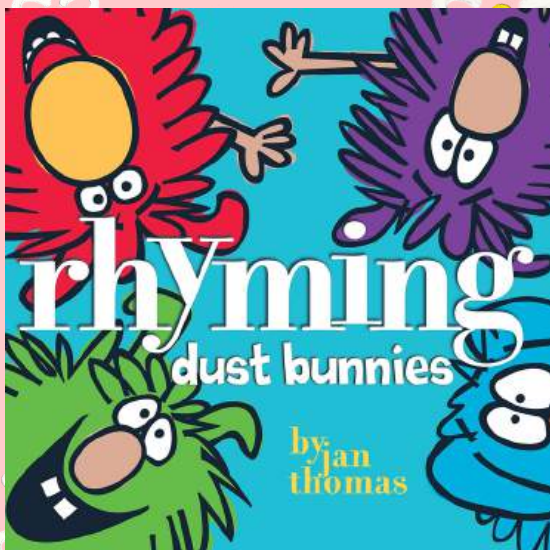
*Need a new book idea or a new song or rhyme for your storytime? Then hopefully I can help you!*

*Contact me any time with questions or suggestions - [Sarah.Bagshaw@vpl.ca](mailto:Sarah.Bagshaw@vpl.ca)*



This Stop's feature "authostrator" is Jan Thomas. If you are a big fan of Mo Willem's Elephant & Piggie books then you'll love Jan Thomas' books too!

An American children's book writer and illustrator, Jan got started in this realm by sketching out a story to interest her son. Attending the Society of Children's Book Writers and Illustrators conference with a friend gave her the chance to show that book to publishers and she got a contract. What Will a Fat Cat Sit On? was the first of many funny picture books and readers. Her books have made it onto many lists, like the Junior Library Guild Premier Selections, New York Public Library - 100 Books for Reading and Sharing, and also recognized via Kirkus Best Book of the Year.\*



Thomas' cartoony illustrations, with bold outlines and bright colours, mean her books can be easily seen in storytime. Paired with very funny stories, these books give the reader the opportunity to use pauses and exclamations to full effect. When reading a Jan Thomas book in storytime and you ask: "I wonder what is going to happen now - should I turn the page?" and everyone is calling out - "Yes!! Turn the page!!", you know you have a winner.



*Rhyming Dust Bunnies* gives the opportunity for rhyming (always a good thing for early language acquisition!), hilarity with the obvious rhymes that don't work, and a big surprise at the end with the vacuum cleaner. This book is a big hit with the pre-school crowd.

Doing an action rhyme next works well with this book, especially if you pick one that has really clear rhymes. I suggest **Two Little Blackbirds**. It's a great fingerplay that even toddlers can do and all children like to hide their fingers behind their backs and then rush them back out to the front again.

### Two Little Blackbirds:

Two little blackbirds sitting on a hill. (point your index fingers of both hands up)

One named Jack, one named Jill. (move first one finger up and down, then the other)

Fly away Jack, fly away Jill. (put one hand behind your back, then the other)

Come back Jack, come back Jill. (bring the first hand back out, then the other)

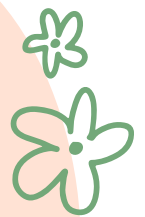
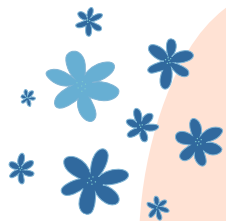
*2 other verses:*

*Two little blackbirds sitting on a cloud*

*One named Quiet, one named Loud*

*Two little blackbirds going to see a show*

*One named Fast, one named Slow*



This rhyme lends itself really well to using different animals, for example a **moose**. It's just important to maintain that rhyme!

2 tall moose standing on a hill

One named Belinda, the other named Bill

Run away Belinda, run away Bill

Come back Belinda, come back Bill

*(2 tall moose staring at a cloud etc.*

*2 tall moose playing in the snow etc.)*



*Can You Make a Scary Face?* Is the perfect book for a storytime crowd that just needs to move. A book that keeps asking the audience to do things in a pretending game is sure to get the wiggles out. Stand up, sit down, wiggle your nose, do the chicken dance, and making scary faces will have everyone laughing, even the parents and caregivers. If this picture book was not enough to get everyone's wiggles out then try this fun action song next:

My fingers are starting to wiggle, wiggle, wiggle.

My fingers are starting to wiggle,

Oh no! Now so are my hands!

My hands are starting to wiggle, wiggle, wiggle.

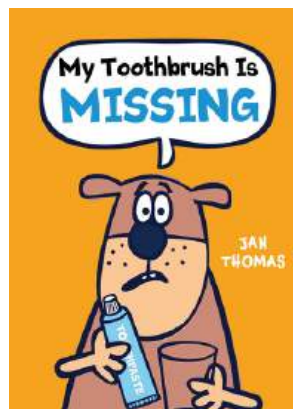
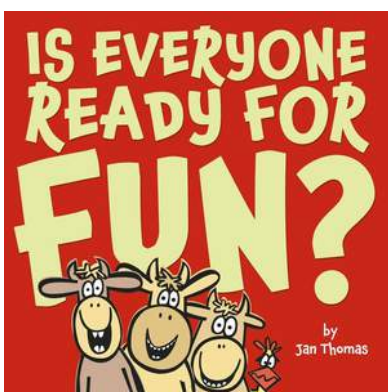
My hands are starting to wiggle,

Oh no! Now so are my arms!

*Then feet, legs (fun one to get small children to try standing on one leg), body, then Oh no! STOP and get everyone to freeze.*

Many of Jan Thomas' books would be fun to do in a storytime, including any of the books in her Giggle Gang Readers series.

- *Is Everyone Ready for Fun?* Super silly, with lots of potential audience participation again.
- *Pumpkin Trouble* - A possibility for a Halloween themed storytime if you do themed ones.
- *My Toothbrush is Missing* This one also makes a great puppet play! We have had a lot of laughter when putting this one on at my branch.



Jam Thomas' books are great for storytime, but also are good for recommending to families who want something funny to read together and the Giggle Gang Readers series make practicing sounding out your words a laugh out loud moment for kids, rather than a chore.

# Features

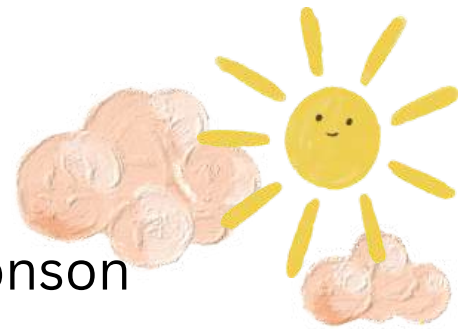
## Tween Fan Party

- Jam Doughty, Tiffany Tse, Dana Ionson

Fan Parties! A Safe Space for Tweens to Celebrate and Share their Fandom

**Tiffany Tse, Dana Ionson, & Jam Doughty**

*Children's Librarians, Vancouver Public Library*

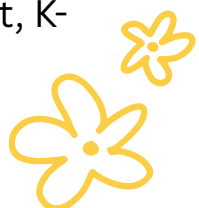


### Origin Story - The Why

At the Vancouver Public Library, we have a strong array of programs for school-aged kids and teens. Many tweens (Grades 4-7) express more interest in teen programs than in programs with younger kids. However, an important aspect of teen programming is creating teen-only and teen-led spaces. Since tweens are developmentally distinct from younger children, we saw the importance of offering a safe, supportive, and exciting space for tweens. We wanted to create spaces that gave tweens opportunities to connect with their peers, express their ideas and opinions, celebrate aspects of their emerging individuality, and foster a sense of belonging. In 2024, we drew inspiration from the success of our teen K-pop parties and Taylor Swift's Eras tour and developed the Fan Party program.

A distinct aspect of our Fan Party programs are that they feature activities and crafts that allow for sharing and trading – like fanzines, photocards, and bead bracelets. Although we discovered that tweens often prefer to keep their crafts rather than trade them (more on that in 'What We Learned'), these programs nonetheless became a special place where tweens can express their ideas and enthusiasm in a safe, supportive space.

Below is a guide on how you can start your own Fan Party program and adapt to a theme that is popular with the tweens in your area. We included examples of the themes we used so far including Taylor Swift, K-pop, and Studio Ghibli. Ideas we have for the future include Anime & Manga, Pokémon, Raina Telgemeier, and Percy Jackson.





## Getting started

- Decide on a theme! Choose a topic that the tweens in your community are interested in.
- Decide on a target age group. We designed our Fan Party programs for tweens in Grades 4-7.
- Consider logistics that work best for your library such as the space, attendance, budget, and if you want to require registration.
  - Registration ensures that the target age group attends and gives the opportunity to ask questions (e.g. ask for their favourite K-pop idols to help with your preparation).
  - Drop-in is more accessible, flexible for family schedules, and other children in the library at the time may join.
  - We welcomed all tweens regardless of whether they are superfans, new to the fandom, or complete beginners who want to learn more!
- Find and print inspiration photos for fan art zines.
- Plan the activities, purchase supplies, and gather relevant materials from your collection.
  - Consider purchasing supplies that work for more than one theme (e.g. bracelet materials were used in both the Swifties and K-pop Fan Parties).
- Prepare any sample crafts and decorations.



## Icebreakers

- **Trivia:** Include a mix of easy and challenging questions about their fandom. Easy questions could be true or false, and/or refer to the names of characters, bands, or songs (e.g. the Pokémon anime follows the adventures of Ash Ketchup - true or false?). Questions about years or dates will be more challenging (e.g. did Taylor Swift's Red album first come out in 2010, 2012, or 2015?).
- **Dotmocracy:** Print out pictures of aspects of the fandom (e.g. albums, films, shows, bands, etc). Participants use stickers, stamps, or post-its to vote for their favourites. Ask them to share why they chose what they did!
- **Would you rather:** Get the kids moving by assigning each answer to a different side of the room, or have them use different hand gestures for each option (e.g. would you rather be the main dancer or the main singer in a K-pop group?).



## Crafts/Activities

Choose activities based on what works best for your library space, age group, and staffing capacity. Some activities require more help from grown-ups, such as tying knots for the bracelets, so choose to do small group stations or one activity after another as a large group.

For any fandom, zines are a great craft! Fanzines have a history connected to fandoms that we can share with attendees (“This is how fan communities connected before the internet!”), provide a literacy connection, and require simple supplies.

### K-pop

- **Photo cards with stickers:** I printed photos of idols on a mini photo printer (you can also print them on cardstock). Tweens loved decorating the photos and some brought their own photo collection to show each other!
- **Bias bracelets:** This activity was especially popular and time-consuming. We used colourful beads and letters to make a bracelet with their favourite group or idol. Tweezers with finger grips helped for accessibility.
- **Zines:** Tweens decorated zines with their favourite groups or wrote a themed playlist.
- **Cup sleeves:** Intended to mimic events where cafés and fandoms collaborate and fans can get a cup sleeve with the featured idols, this craft was not as popular as the photo cards and bracelets.
- **Photo booth:** Tweens were happy to use idol cut-outs as props!



## Studio Ghibli

- **Zines:** We started with a prompt about our favourite Ghibli movie, but most tweens preferred to make fan art zines and asked for reference images. We had books and DVDs for them to use, but printing images in advance of popular characters (Totoro, Kiki, etc) would have been helpful!
- **Susuwatari (Soot sprites):** We used black yarn to make pom-poms and added pipe cleaner limbs and googly eyes. This craft was challenging, but also super engaging. One tween who was completely new to Ghibli and felt a little left out of other activities still had a great time with this one.
- **Scavenger hunt:** As tweens finished up their crafts at different times, I gave them sheets for a scavenger hunt that had been set up in the library earlier that day.
- **Extra activities:** If you don't have enough supplies or time for a more complex craft, a two-page flipbook can be an option for any animation-related fandom.



## Taylor Swift

- **Song BINGO:** I printed out BINGO cards with song titles. I pulled the title from a bag and then played the song. The tweens yelled out the title when they recognized it. This turned into a big sing-a-long and they wanted to keep playing.
- **Bracelets:** Tweens made bracelets with their favourite lyrics. This took longer than expected; they loved using small seed beads but struggled to tie knots.
- **Stickers:** I printed images related to the fandom and tweens created stickers.
- **Extra activities:** I also prepped karaoke and a Taylor Swift quiz but we didn't get to it - the BINGO and bracelets were so popular.





## What We Learned

- ★ • **Tweens kept their own crafts:** We originally intended for participants to trade their crafts as part of the fan culture but tweens preferred to keep their own.
- **Give tweens chances to make decisions and express themselves:** Dotmocracy was a big hit for every theme. However you adapt the program for your community, make sure to include chances for tweens to make their ideas and opinions heard!
- **Getting the word out:** One thing that helped in promoting the Studio Ghibli Fan Party was focusing on the most well-known characters – tweens may not recognize the name “Ghibli”, but they knew Totoro!
- **Prepare photos early:** Selecting and printing photos took a lot of time, so start early.
- **Print multiple pictures of popular subjects or groups:** Many tweens may want the same picture to add to their zines.
- **Bracelets, song bingo, and zines took more time than expected:** Allow extra time for these activities, not to mention that mistakes can happen when making bracelets, which leads to the next point...
- **Not every knot is secure:** Show tweens how to best tie a knot so that they don’t lose their beads!
- **Visual schedule:** Since this was a new program, I created a visual schedule so attendees would know what to expect. This is something that can support youth with disabilities, shy or anxious kids, English language learners, late arrivals, and more. I referenced back to the schedule whenever we switched activities.
- **When activities are so fun, transitions can be hard:** Prepare buffer ideas for when tweens do not want to end the program. Ending with a scavenger hunt proved helpful since tweens could keep playing while we were essentially dismissing them from the program



### Canva Links

[K-pop photo cards](#)

[Studio Ghibli Scavenger Hunt](#)

[Studio Ghibli Visual schedule](#)

[Taylor Swift Album Covers for dotmocracy ice breaker](#)

[Taylor Swift fan art inspiration for stickers or zines](#)

Other Links

[How to Make Your Own Stickers](#)

[How to Make a Zine](#)

[Two Page Flipbook](#)

[How to Tie a Bracelet](#)

*(All photos credited to Vancouver Public Library.)*

# Features



## Cultivating Relationships with Caregivers in Storytime



- Tess Prendergast

In all our work with parents, caregivers, and little kids in our storytime programs, we need to put relationships first. When we're talking about early literacy and learning we are literally talking about relationships because that is how human beings learn.

Yes, we provide exciting, beautiful, culturally engaging and developmentally appropriate learning materials for children in our storytimes. This is all fantastic. However, I believe the relationships with parents and caregivers are the most important, the most critical, and the most likely to make a difference in a child's life. Put simply, you won't have an impactful program unless you have (or are willing to grow) relationships with parents and caregivers.

From all our work with Every Child Ready to Read and other training and knowledge, we already know that early literacy skills are cultivated mainly through parent/caregiver-child interactions. The people that spend the most time with their kids are the ones who are the most important when it comes to early literacy. Most of the impact of your relationships with parents and caregivers comes from the facilitation and the support you give them that then supports their children's learning.





Let's start at the beginning of a relationship with a parent-caregiver. You already know that parents are naturally protective of their children. They need to vet all the people that interact with their kids, including you. It doesn't matter how nice you are, it's a parent's job to vet you. So, when you first meet a family, you should expect a warm-up period that might last a few weeks or even longer. You need to give those new grown-ups whatever time they need to get to know and trust you.



I encourage you to start slow, keeping things warm, friendly, low-stakes, and low-key. In the early weeks of your program sets, maybe hold off on launching into your best and most impressive performances and for sure do not start offering suggestions and tips right away. Instead, take the time to get folks' names, and use your intuition to try to get a sense of how they are doing. Read their nonverbal cues. Do they seem nervous, tired, anxious, or overwhelmed? These are all common emotions for parents of young children, so they may need a lot of genuine reassurance that they are in a safe, welcoming space, and that they are doing great just for showing up.

Some parents are very self-conscious of their childrens' – even their babies' behaviour. I have heard many stories of parents leaving storytime and never returning because their child became distressed and they felt bad for disturbing the group. To help prevent this, go ahead and frequently reassure your groups that you absolutely expect a certain level of chaos. Here are a few things you can try saying, depending on the situation.

*“Little kids are chaotic beings. All little kids (with and without disabilities) are prone to emotional outbursts and this is all okay. Truly, this is ALL OKAY”*






*“I want to encourage you to take your very upset baby/child out of the storytime space for a while because that is what they are telling you they need from you – their beloved grown-up - in the moment. It is not a punishment. It is for them and it is how you can help them help themselves so please do this for them and do not worry about the rest of us. Your child might just need a change of scenery, and a few moments of calm to reset themselves if they can.”*

*“This might be all they can manage today and that is totally okay! Some kids take a long time before they can get through a ½ hour storytime. I promise you, even five minutes, or 1 song, or ½ a fingerplay is a great start. Next week it might be 10 minutes, and so on! Please, please come back another day, we can do this!”*




As the weeks progress, you can slowly start getting to some of the nitty-gritty around your program’s early literacy goals. Once everyone truly enjoys being there (the relationships are flourishing!), you can start to get their buy-in. Now they trust you, and see you as someone who is truly in their corner. Parents don’t want to be told what they should or should not be doing with their kids. Instead, they want to be recognized for what they are already doing and they want to be inspired to try new things with their kids, without pressure.







I find that a very good strategy for building parents' trust in me is to notice and comment positively on something that their children are doing because of what they are doing with their child. This is so easy to weave into a program. For example:



*“Oh, wow, your baby has such a beautiful smile right now, I think she really likes it when you sing to her!”*




*“I really like seeing how you are all helping your kids with the actions to this song! They love learning from you – well done, grown-ups!”*




You might not have time to comment on every child each week, but you can for sure touch on a few interactions that highlight the kinds of things you want to encourage in your attendees.

When you teach a family a new song, or share a book with them and they take it home to sing again or read again, you have given them a new way to share joy with each other. That strengthens their bonds and helps their children learn. Once you have that relationship, you have so much to offer parent-child interactions in storytime (rhymes, songs, games, & stories etc.) and these are the things that truly make a difference.

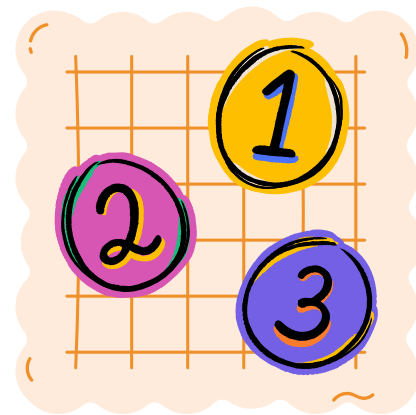


[Tess Prendergast](#) is a former children's librarian who teaches librarianship and children's literature courses at the UBC iSchool. Along with some of her MLIS students, she collaborates on a volunteer-run babytime program for UBC community families. Tess lives in East Vancouver with her family and enjoys drawing, making felt stories, and listening to yacht rock.



# Features ✨

## Shelve by Number: Adding Series Stickers to Middle Grade Fiction - Laura Weisgarber



“Do you know which book comes after this one?”

This was a very common reference question at our public library’s youth desk, but you couldn’t blame patrons for not knowing- staff often didn’t know either! Books within series were shelved alphabetically by title, not by series order, and not all publishers put series numbers on the spines. To find out the order, staff needed to dive into Novelist or Goodreads before checking the catalogue to see if a certain volume was on the shelf.

So to help make things a little easier, I proposed we add numbers to the series' spines. It seemed like a simple solution, but it turned out to be a lot more complicated than I originally thought!



This was an idea I borrowed from our school libraries, where they use colorfully numbered stickers on the spines of their books. I felt that stickering series had the potential to make our library shelves more familiar to browsing students, while also making things easier for our staff. My co-worker Kailyn and I look after the youth collections at our library, and after pitching the idea to her we wrote up a project plan, submitted it for approval, and got the green light.

We decided to start with stickering the middle grade Books on CD first and then the middle grade Hardcover Fiction. Some items were excluded like prequels or novellas belonging to a series, because using decimal numbers to indicate the order might confuse patrons on where to start.

At first we were thinking of purchasing pre-numbered labels from a library supplier, however our co-worker came up with the brilliant idea to use U-line labels instead. This meant we could save money AND print numbers as we needed them. Each number would be placed above the cutter to keep things looking more or less uniform and then secured using label protectors.

Kailyn and I ambitiously decided to sticker the series we already owned by ourselves. We figured the most efficient use of our time would be to work shelf by shelf across two branches for no more than 2hrs a week until we were done. We would let our Acquisitions team sticker new materials during processing.

As we were rolling up our sleeves in preparation for stickering, our Acquisitions team asked if we could also check each item's 490 field in the MARC Record. Why? If the 490 field was present, it would mean it could link to other items of the series in our public facing catalogue. So we added an extra step to our workflow: keep an Excel Spreadsheet of all items that needed 490 fields.

Another step before we started was to meet with our different departments who would be affected by this change, specifically pages and circulation/desk staff. We created cheat sheets, promised project updates through emails, and answered questions as best we could. Once all of this was done, it was time to start stickering!

We loaded books in baskets and brought them to our workstation to scan each title and determine which were part of a series and which were stand-alones. Dead items were weeded, grubby items were removed or replaced, MARC records were checked, Excel sheets were updated for 490 fields and to make note of volumes we didn't own. For popular series that were checked out - like Diary of a Wimpy Kid or anything by Rick Riordan - we placed holds using our work cards so that they could be stickered upon return to the library. When we finished one collection area at the main branch we would travel to our second branch to sticker their collection.



This project continued to evolve as we worked on it. One challenge we encountered was determining which series deserved stickers. We decided early on that longer series like Magic Tree House or Nancy Drew would not be given stickers, since they could be read in any order. But then we encountered books like Mary Poppins that were surprises to us for being a series, or books like the Wizard of Oz that were part of much larger series that we didn't own and didn't plan to own. Were these worth stickering? Not to mention the issue of Ranger's Apprentice #12 also being #1 of the sequel series! Or that Percy Jackson's Chalice of the Gods was #6 of the first series, but then changed to #1 of a sequel series so we had to relabel it. We tried to be consistent in our stickering decisions as much as possible, but depending on the situation we had to make a few exceptions.

Our proposed timeline for this project was one month for the Books on CD (April), and four months for the middle grade Hardcover. It actually took us almost two months for the Books on CD, and six months for the middle grade hardcover fiction, wrapping up this project in mid-November.

We handled over 5000 items during this project, allowing us to perform a very thorough audit of our middle grade collections. For an unusual project, it brought up some interesting conversations with coworkers, such as 'at what age do you leave the responsibility for knowing the series order to the patron?' This project also helped fix some unforeseen issues like connecting previously unlinked series titles in our public facing catalogue. There are still a few sore points, like trying to shelve all of the Rick Riordan books in their own series, but overall we're happy with how everything turned out. Staff find it easier to organize books using the stickers, and patron questions at the youth desk about series order have decreased significantly.



**Laura Weisgarber (she/her)** is a Collections Librarian - Youth at Prince George Public Library. Laura is your friendly neighbourhood Collections Librarian who loves to recommend picture books. When she isn't working, Laura is usually spending time with her senior cat Lola, playing D&D with friends, or (surprise surprise) reading from an ever-growing pile of books.





# Call for Submissions

YAACING is always looking for submissions of interest to children's and teen specialists in BC libraries, and we thank everyone for their interest in submitting something to the YAACING Magazine! Please review the guidance and helpful tips we've created when putting together your article, and if you have any further questions do not hesitate to contact us at [yaacing@gmail.com](mailto:yaacing@gmail.com).

## **2025 Submission Deadlines**

Spring Issue - April 1st

Summer Issue - August 1st

Winter Issue - December 1st

We accept submissions year round, if you submit late or early we are happy to carry over articles to the next closest issue!



# Submission Guidelines:

## Guidelines

- **Word count** can be anywhere between 500-1500 words, we are flexible.
- **Writing style** can be casual and conversational, we encourage accessible writing.
- **Academic papers** are welcome! Please remove jargon and simplify as best you can.
- **Format** with paragraphs, headings, bullet points and/or numbered lists. We will do our best to maintain your formatting while we put together the issue.

## Tips & Suggestions

- We want to hear about all age groups - early years, middle years, and teens!
- We want to hear from libraries across BC!
- Feel free to submit one article or multiple throughout the year

*Things We Love:* Pictures, personal anecdotes, tips and tricks, links, resources, jokes, program materials and templates...

## Some Prompts & Guiding Questions

- What is something you have done, seen, supported or facilitated that made you excited?
- Tell us about things that worked and things that didn't.
- Send us photos of your favourite library display(s)!
- Do you have a passive program you're working on?
- What is something you wish you learned in library school?
- Has your library acquired a new tool, game or piece of tech?
- What is exciting to the children and teens in your library right now?
- How are you incorporating EDI principles into your work?

Please send all submissions to [yaacing@gmail.com](mailto:yaacing@gmail.com), we look forward to hearing from you!





## Join us virtually for YAACS meetings!

We will be hosting meetings on the last Wednesday of every month from 12:00-1:00pm.

Our next meetings will be held virtually on **Sept 24, Oct 29** and **Nov 26**. Links to meetings will be shared on the *YAACS forum*, and everyone is welcome!