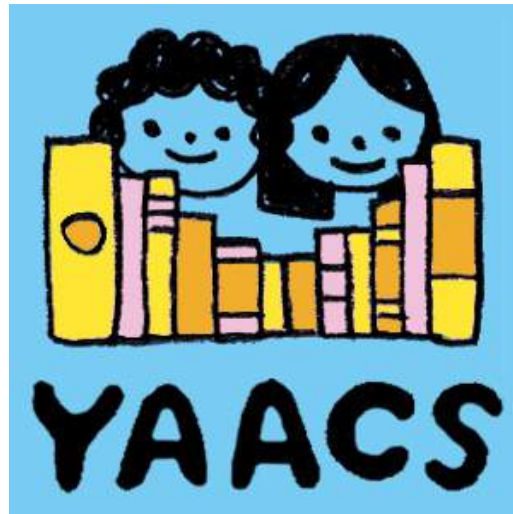




YAACING
FALL 2025

magazine for the young adult and children
services section of BCLA



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

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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 Sk̓wx̓wú7mesh (Squamish), Stó:lō and Səlílwətaʔ/Selilwitulh (Tseil-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

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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

Happy New Year YAACING Readers,

I am extremely excited to announce our Q1 2026 YACCS meeting lineup. This phenomenal lineup would not be possible without your phenomenal attendance and participation since we switched to a monthly meeting format.

January 28: Manga Literacy Framework with guest speaker Rahbar

February 25: Imaginative Connections: Engage your Audience with Innovative and Dynamic Story Time Tools with guest speakers Brittany Dunk and Margaret LaTour

March 25: Language Development and Acquisition with Speech Language Pathologist Tasha Ogryzlo

April 29: Roundtable – chat with other children and teens services library workers

And a huge thank you Veronica for your amazing work as the YAACING editor! Veronica hit the ground running as the editor of YAACING. Not only did she help produce 6 brilliant issues, behind the scenes she also wrote an entire manual and revamped our submission guidelines. Thank you, Veronica, for helping set YAACING up for future success!

See you on zoom!

Emily Gow



Letters

Letter from Veronica Blott, YAACING Editor

Hello everyone,

Happy new year! We have another amazing collection of articles to start off 2026. First, Lindsay Krabbenhoft shares some of her favourite Instagram creators that focus on libraries, arts and crafts. Then we have another round of wonderful new & noteworthy titles from Sadie Tucker.

We also have a new storytime spotlight from Sarah Bagshaw, this time on the work of Japanese “authostrator” Tarō Gomi which includes fun songs you can pair with his books. Then Katie Lloyd and Lisa Furfaro have set up a really fun tween program - a taste test challenge! Read all about their planning process, supplies and how the program went down at their library. Finally, Alex Loewen reimagines the classics and shares new titles that are inspired by classic children and teen literature.

I want to give an extra big thank you to our YAACING Co-Chairs Emily and Brenna and to our Art Director, Justin, as this will be my final issue as Editor of YAACING Magazine. You have all made working on this magazine such a wonderful experience. And thank you to all of YOU for reading new issues and submitting articles and participating in this great YAACING community!

If you are ever interested in submitting to YAACING Magazine, please don't hesitate to email yaacing@gmail.com anytime.

Happy reading!

Veronica Blott

Columns



Library

...tune in for storytime success



I'll Link to That - Lindsey Krabbenhoft

Ideas from Instagram

When I first started blogging in 2013 the world was filled with other library people writing and sharing ideas in blog format. Nowadays many blogs have fallen by the wayside, but the rise in photo and video content has exploded. Instagram, with its visually appealing short form content, can spark many ideas for library programs if you know where to look. Here are some recommended accounts that will save you from doomscrolling and hopefully inspire you to try something new with kids and teens.



Mini Mad Things

Say hello to my go-to place for hands-on craft activities that work well for school-age kids. I can't wait to try this cardboard house, this drawing activity, or these stick people. Some of the projects are inspired by books or artists, making it easy to build in a literacy connection.



Music with Shannon

This Canadian music teacher has lots and lots and lots of songs and rhymes for the little ones. In particular, Shannon shares a variety of prop songs to use with things like scarves, rhythm sticks, and shakers. If your storytime repertoire is feeling stale, start here.



The Book Wrangler

Mike is a school librarian with a sharp eye for design. We can steal so many of his school library ideas! He has a [Google Drive account](#) with all his freebies and I recommend checking out the library posters and book displays first.



The Little Artists Room

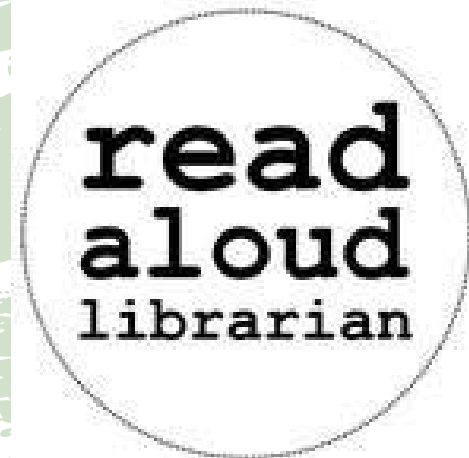


Aimed at art teachers and parents, this account has a lot to offer library staff. These paper sculptures offer an open-ended challenge scalable to different age groups. These mushrooms inspired by Yayoi Kusama would be a fantastic challenge for a tween or teen group. If you have the ability to paint in your space this account is a goldmine.



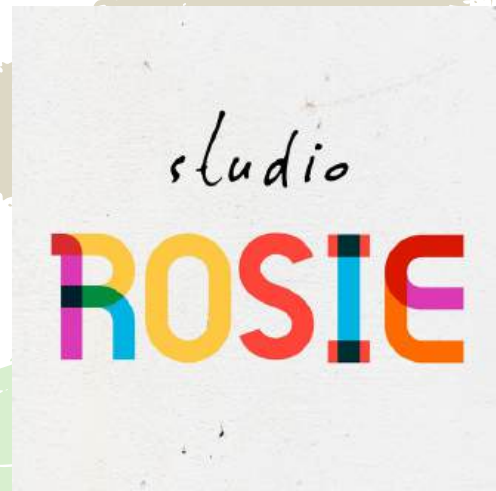
TRead Aloud Librarian

This school librarian is coming at you with the best books to share with school-age kids. You will never have to wonder what to read that Grade 3 class ever again. You can also use her suggestions for displays and reader's advisory.



Studio Rosie

Known for her book about fantasy crafts, Jen's projects are cute AND interesting to kids. Who wouldn't want to do a monster hair salon? Or a unicorn hair salon? These would pair perfectly with a book club on said topics.



La La Librarian

Alyssa Jewell provides song and book recommendations that are great for storytimes. I like how she captions each video so you can follow along easier as you learn the song. Her recommendations are often seasonal and include things for holidays and special occasions.



Do you have any favourite Instagram accounts for library inspiration? Feel free to shoot me your suggestions at jbrary@gmail.com.

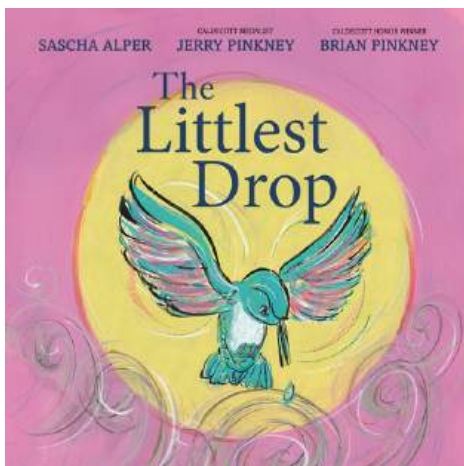
Columns

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

The Littlest Drop

Alper, Sascha

3-8 years

Hummingbird is putting the finishing touches on her nest when a forest fire breaks out. While the other animals huddle by the river, Hummingbird tries to put out the fire by carrying single drops of water in her beak. The other animals scoff, but she replies, "I'm doing what I can." Will the other animals follow suit?

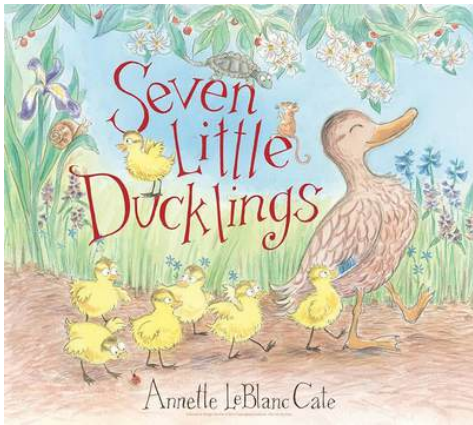


Every Monday Mabel

Awan, Jashar

3-7 years

Every Monday, Mabel follows a strict routine. Her sister thinks it's boring, her mom thinks it's cute, and her dad thinks it's hilarious. None of this matters to Mabel, though, as she knows anyone who doesn't watch a garbage truck in action is missing out. Absolutely adorable with great storytime potential.

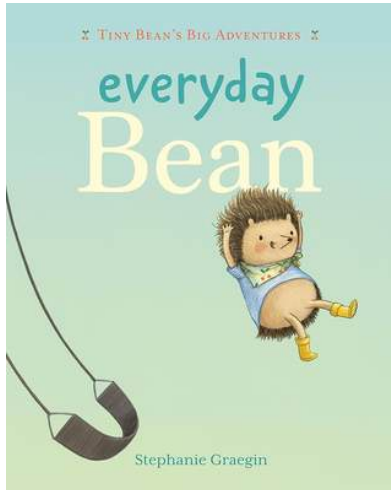


Seven Little Ducklings

Cate, Annette

3-6 years

While a mother duck sleeps, her seven eggs hatch and the ducklings wander away. Upon waking up, Mother Duck panics and sets off to retrieve her young. Along the way, she ends up rescuing more babies than expected. Fortunately, she has enough love for everyone. Illustrations are suitable for small to medium-sized groups. Very sweet.

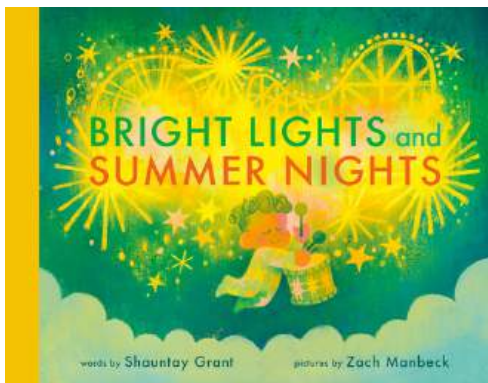


Everyday Bean: Tiny Bean's Big Adventure

Graegin, Stephanie

3-7 years

A collection of short stories featuring Bean and her grandmother. The tales are very sweet and often lightly humorous. Bean appears to live with her grandmother, adding a lovely twist.

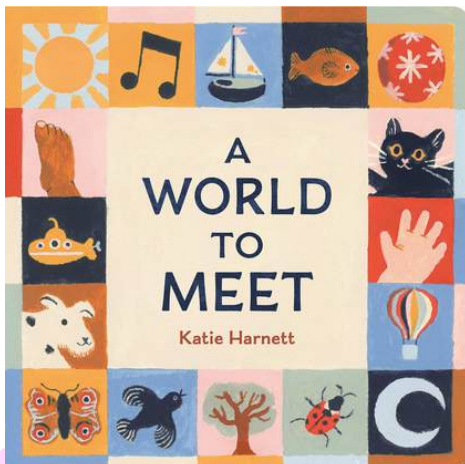


Bright Lights and Summer Nights ♦

Grant, Shauntay

3-6 years

A very young boy is ushered into sleep by a magical woman. As he drifts off, he visits increasingly fantastical scenes alongside a group of merry friends. The limited text (there are three words on most of the spreads) make the reading experience similar to a wordless picture book



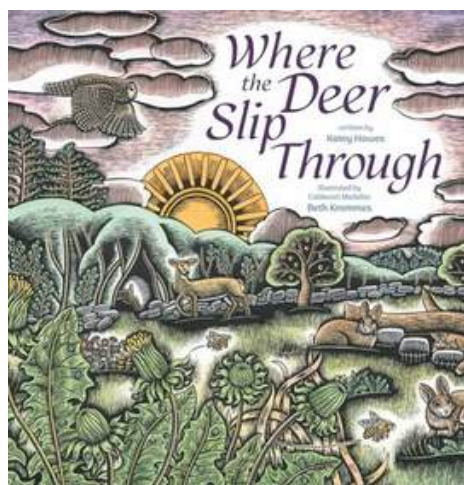
A World to Meet

Harnett, Katie

0-2 years

A sweet rhyme about the plethora of things that babies can meet in the world. Illustrations and the size of the book make it suitable for small to medium babytimes.





Where the Deer Slip Through

Howes, Katey

3-6 years

All around a child's countryside house, flora and fauna burst with life: Dandelions bloom, lizards creep, and doves coo. As evening arrives, animals and children settle down to sleep as owls hoot. A gentle, lyrical bedtime book.



Everybelly 🍁

Lam, Thao

3-7 years

A child visits their local swimming pool and introduces the various residents of their apartment building who have varied skin-tones, ages, physical differences, abilities, and bellies. At one point the child delightfully states; "Some people work hard to keep their bellies flat. But why?"

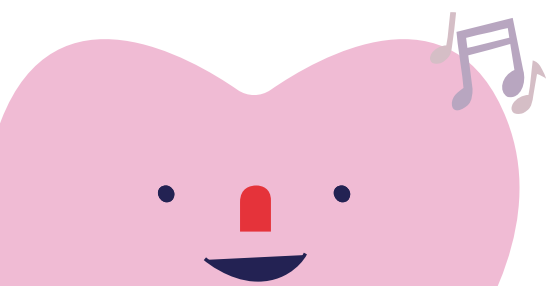


I Am Connected 🍁

Kung Jaadee

3-8 years

A bit long for younger storytime, this title by a local Indigenous storyteller encourages conversation and reflection. Each page spread has a description of connection "I am connected to the trees," an example of how the author experiences that connection, and a prompt for how the listener might experience it (e.g., "What do you do to feel strong?"). Great for group discussions.





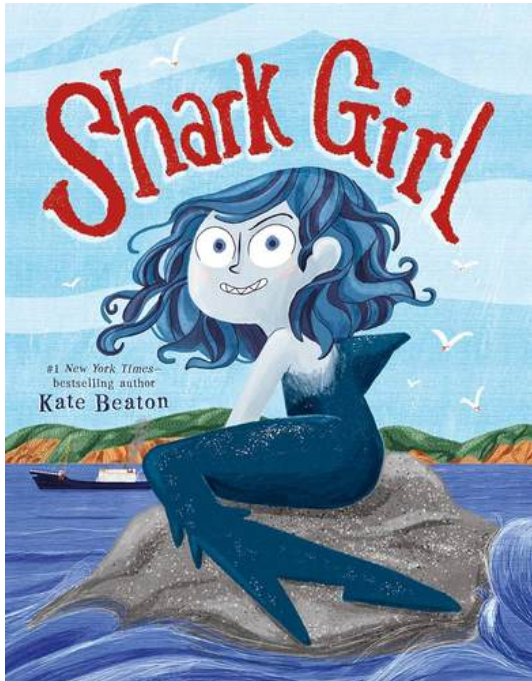
Picture Books – Big(ger) Kids

Clara and the Man with Books in His Window 🍁

Andruetto, María Teresa

5+ years

Every week, Clara brings clean laundry to a man who lives in a big house that he never leaves. One day, the two strike up a conversation and he begins to share books with her. As they get to know one another, she learns that he stopped leaving his house after the man he fell in love with left and he refused to be brave and go with him. When Clara forgets a book at his house, the man must choose to be brave.

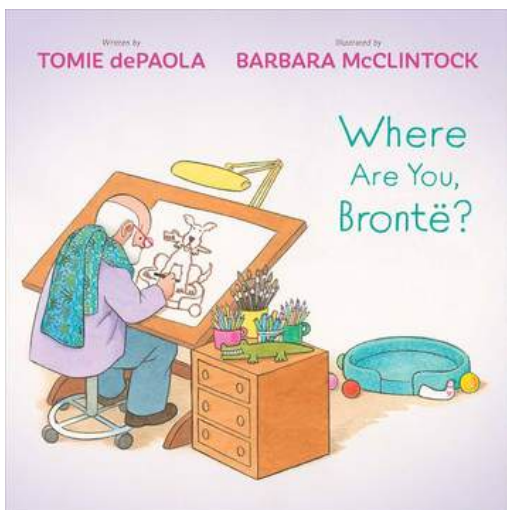


Shark Girl 🍁

Beaton, Kate

4-8 years

Shark Girl lives a great life in the ocean until the day she is caught in a large fishing net. While she manages to escape, she notes how the fishers kill many fish that humans have no interest in eating. Incensed, she hatches a revenge plot and infiltrates the fishing crew. Will the evil captain get his comeuppance or will Shark Girl be unable to incite a mutiny?



Where Are You, Brontë?

DePaola, Tomie

4+ years

A man mourns and remembers his beloved dog, Brontë; from getting her as a puppy, to taking her on walks, to her continuing to enjoy life after losing her sight. He eventually realises that Brontë is still with him, in his heart. Made all the more meaningful as this was Tomie dePaola's last published work after his passing.

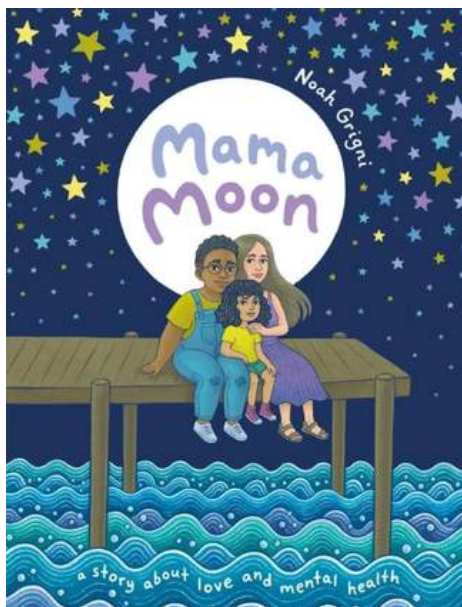


Aggie and the Ghost 🍁

Forsythe, Matthew

4-8 years

Forsythe's wry humour shines through in this tale about a girl and her unwelcome ghostly roommate who refuses to follow the rules. Facing a disheveled house, Aggie wonders what she can do to make the ghost leave. Unlike most stories about interpersonal friction, this tale concludes with the protagonists being occasional friends rather than besties.

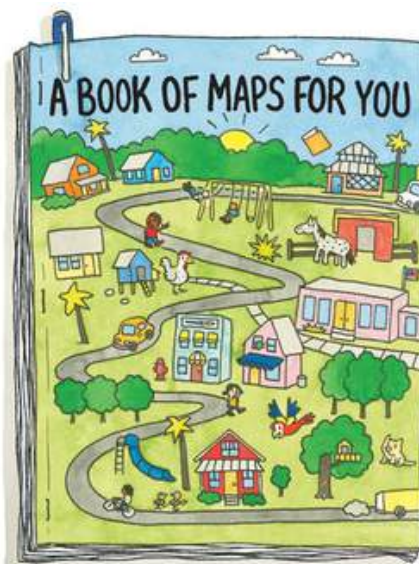


Mama Moon: a Story About Love and Mental Health

Grigni, Noah

4-8 years

A child talks about their Mama who experiences both deep depressions and manic episodes. The rhyming text feels unnecessary, but the story itself does a wonderful job of showcasing the challenges of living with someone with a severe mental illness. Refreshingly, at no time does the child take on responsibility for cheering their parent up, nor is there a tidy conclusion.



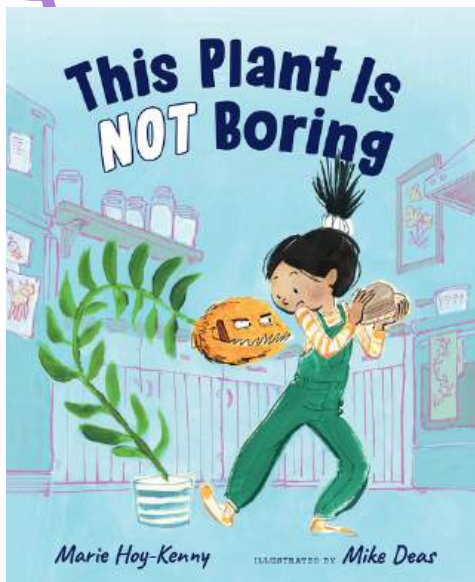
Lourdes Heuer Maxwell Eaton III

A Book of Maps for You

Heuer, Lourdes

4-8 years

A charming collection of maps guiding the reader through the creator's neighbourhood, local buildings, and even neighbours' backyard farms. At the end, it is revealed that the book of maps has been created for the next resident in the home of a child who is moving away. Young readers will be inspired to make their own map of... just about anything.

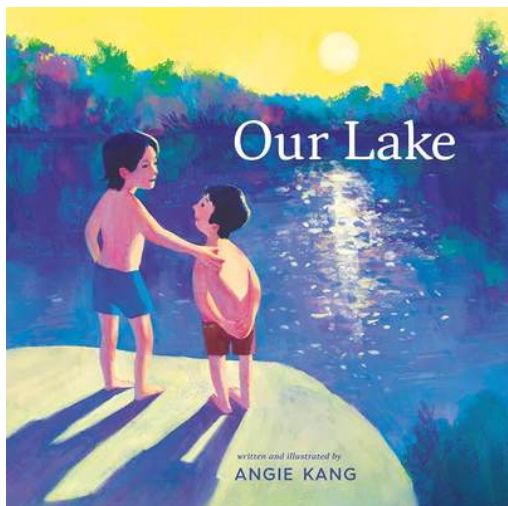


This Plant is Not Boring 🍁

Hoy-Kenny, Marie

4-8 years

Mia's mom has bought her a plant. The deal is that if the plant thrives, she can get a dog. Mia is not impressed. It turns out that the plant is also not impressed - by Mia. After showing its two rows of sharp teeth, it begins to eat Mia's belongings. Is there anything that Mia can do to stop the destruction? A cute story, that might be a bit scary for sensitive readers.

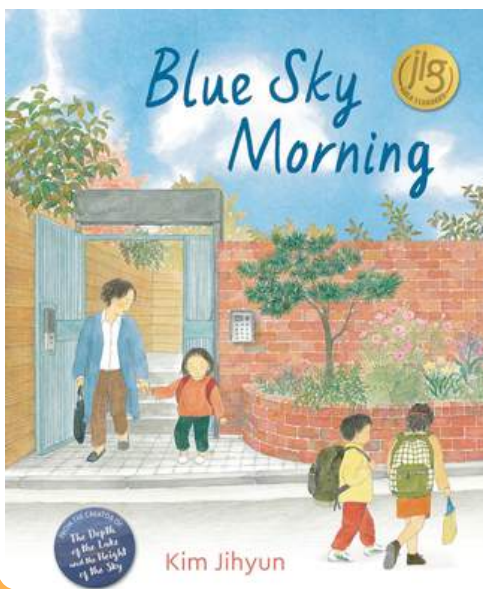


Our Lake

Kang, Angie

5+ years

A boy and his older brother visit the lake for swimming. This is the first time they have done so since their father passed away. Poised to jump off the ledge into the lake, the boy is overcome with anxiety. Recalling his father's joy, he becomes brave. A touching story simply told.



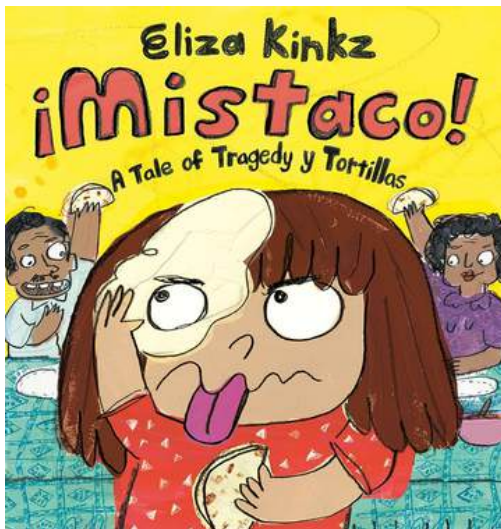
Blue Sky Morning

Kim, Jihyun

4-6 years

In this picture book from South Korea, it's a "beautiful blue sky" morning and it's time for Eunny to get up. Readers follow as she has breakfast and then walks to school with her mother. A gentle story that reminds us to slow down and appreciate our surroundings.



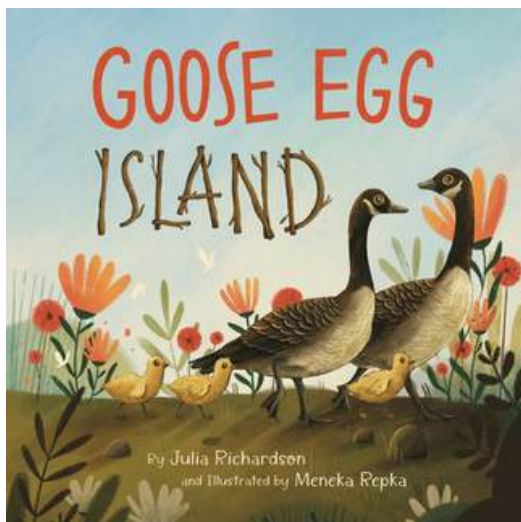


¡Mistaco!

Kinkz, Eliza

4-8 years

Izzy always seems to be making mistakes and she's sick of it! After an embarrassing day at school, she visits her grandparents. Izzy is not in the mood to make tortillas but her lito is hungry. After another disaster, her lito offers to eat her mistakes in the form of tacos. Soon, everyone is sharing their embarrassing moments. A warm and silly story that encourages readers to loosen up and laugh at themselves.

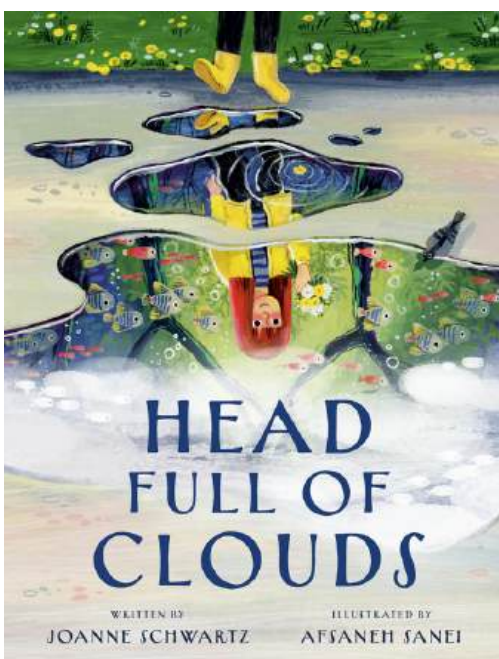


Goose Egg Island

Richardson, Julia Marie

4-8 years

Lovely prose and charming illustrations describe the life of a bonded pair of Canadian geese. In the winter, they begin tidying up their nest, then the goose lays eggs and does not leave to eat or drink for several weeks while the gander guards. This title would make for a good classroom read aloud and could tie into units involving nature, seasons, and/or animals.



Head Full of Clouds

Schwartz, Joanne

5-9 years

This meditative book narrated in second person recounts the colourful things seen throughout a day spent outdoors. One thing still bothers you, though: You can't remember the dream you had last night. This descriptive, imaginative book likely won't have broad appeal but it will be enjoyed by thoughtful readers and may serve well in creative writing programs.



This is How We Talk: a Celebration of Disability and Connection 🍁

Slice, Jessica
5-8 years

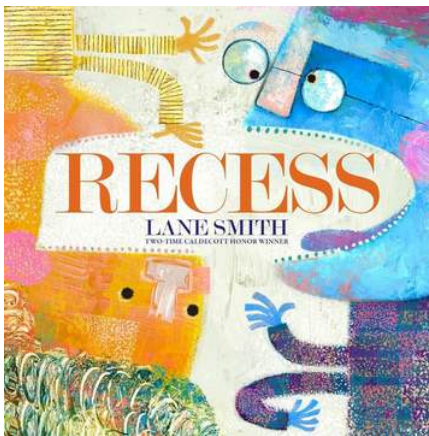
This celebration of all the ways that we communicate highlights language, physical gestures, and adaptive tools. The book is long, so less patient readers may require more than one reading session to read it in its entirety.



Anything 🍁

Stead, Rebecca
5-8 years

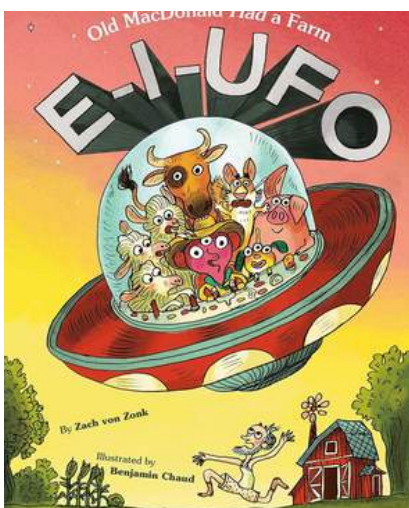
A little girl and her daddy have just moved into a new apartment. They celebrate with a cake and Daddy says that she can have three wishes. More than anything, the little girl wishes that they could be back at their old home but, out loud, she carefully chooses her wishes throughout the day. A beautiful example of a warm, responsive parent.



Recess

Smith, Lane
5-8 years

Sometimes you need a break, even if it isn't actually recess yet. Young readers will love following the narrator's active and wild shenanigans, such as quacking like a duck and yelling "Banana!". The illustrations aren't ideal for large groups, but that doesn't really matter here.

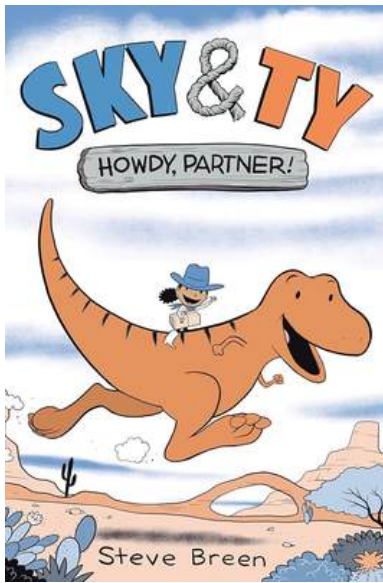


E-I-UFO

Von Zonk, Zach
5-8 years

A singable book to the tune of "Old MacDonald". A farmer has a big surprise when an alien abducts all of his animals, but it turns out that the alien is in for an even bigger surprise as said animals begin to wreak havoc on their ship.

School Age Fiction – Primary:



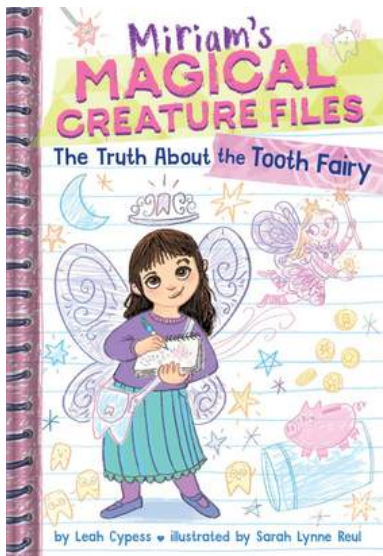
Sky & Ty: Howdy, Partner!

Breen, Steve

6-8 years

Graphic novel/Humour

Sky has always dreamed of riding a terrifying T. Rex. When she meets a dinosaur, who is decidedly less ferocious than her imagined dino, she isn't sure what to think but soon the two have forged a fast friendship. Divided into stand-alone "chapters" this is a great option for new or emerging independent readers.



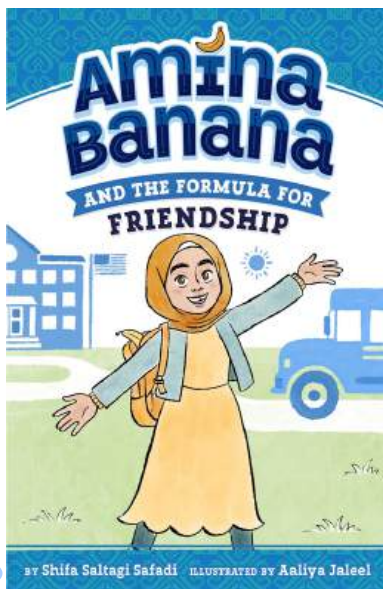
The Truth About the Tooth Fairy

Cypess, Leah

7-9 years

Epistolary/Magical realism

6-year-old Miriam has lost her first tooth, and this brings up a surprising number of questions. Is the Tooth Fairy real? It seems unlikely. If the Tooth Fairy is real, is she Jewish and thus unable to deliver tooth money on a Shabbat? Determined to uncover the answers, Miriam sets to investigating and details her findings in her journal.



Amina Banana and the Formula for Friendship

Safadi, Shifa Saltagi

5-9 years

Illustrated chapter book/Contemporary

Amina is entering the 3rd grade late in the year, having recently arrived with her family from Syria. She is confident, though, that she will fit in because she has a perfect formula for success. When things don't go as planned, Amina is upset to discover that speaking perfect English and wearing a perfect outfit are not as easy as she thought. Maybe her formula needs some adjustments?



School Age Fiction – Primary:

Ollie in Between

Callans, Jess

10+ years

Contemporary fiction

Ollie is nearly 13 and puberty is throwing them into a tailspin. They struggle with the concept of being a girl or a boy and feel like they don't fit in anywhere. A class assignment inspires them to interview the women they know, but that experience confuses them even more. Fortunately, a queer book club provides Ollie with the sense of belonging that they have been looking for and gives them the space to explore their identity further.



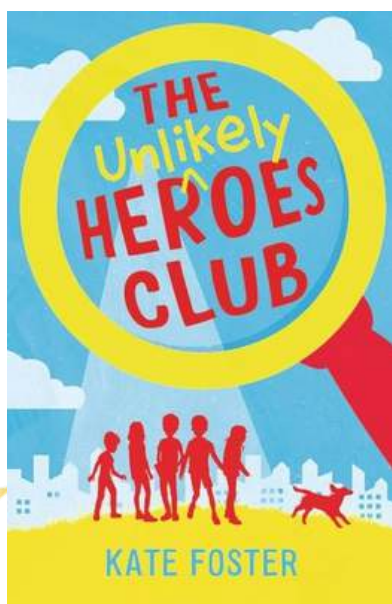
The Mystery of the Haunted Dance Hall 🍁

Cotter, Charis

9-12 years

Paranormal/Historical fiction

12-year-old Bee is going to camp for the first time. She isn't exactly excited about it, but she doesn't have a choice. After making an unexpected friend, she is introduced to a strange mystery: One group of girls seems to be keeping a secret. Each night they go to bed and are never seen leaving their cabin, but every morning their flashlights are dead.

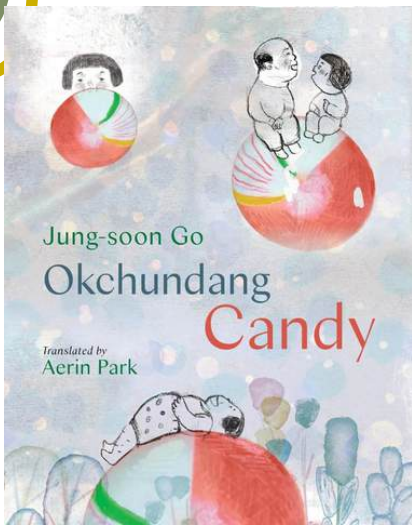


The Unlikely Heroes Club

Foster, Kate

8-12 years

11-year-old Oli would much rather spend spring break at home; instead, he and his parents are attending a week-long program for kids on the autism-spectrum. When he and other kids in the program notice a stray dog living nearby, they unite to rescue the pooch. The mission will require breaking rules and combining their skill sets, but it's a mission worth taking. Reviewers have commended this title for its emphasis on the diversity found throughout the autism spectrum.



Okchundang Candy

Go, Jung-soon

9-13 years

Graphic novel/Memoir

In this import from South Korea, the author recalls her grandparents: Their deep commitment to each other, their love for their family and community, and her close relationship with them. As time passed, her grandparents aged, facing new challenges and loss. An emotional book that will have readers reflecting on their own relationships and time's unstoppable march.



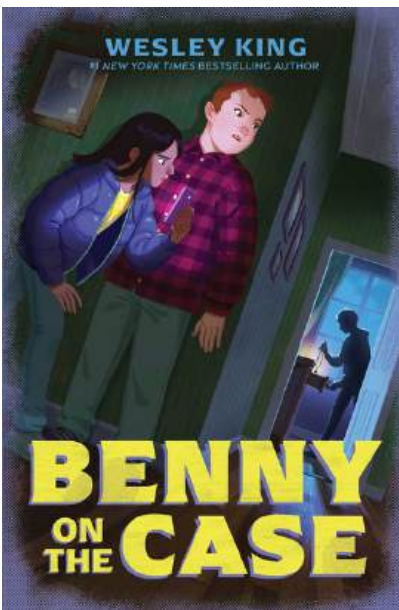
Gus and Glory

Guillory, Sarah

8-12 years

Contemporary fiction

12-year-old Glory is reeling from her mom leaving. While her dad, a long-haul truck driver, is away, Glory is sent to stay with grandparents she has never met. There, she encounters Gus - a large, big-hearted bloodhound. Alongside Gus, Glory decides to investigate why her mother left.



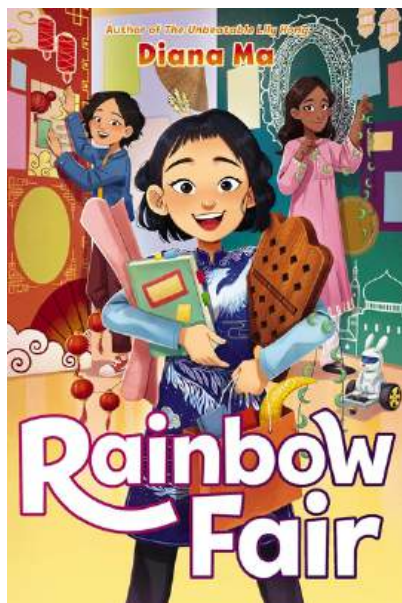
Benny on the Case ♦

King, Wesley

9-12 years

Mystery

11-year-old Benny is singled out at school for a variety of reasons: He lives in a retirement home, isn't interested in the same things as his peers, and has mosaic Down Syndrome - a condition that has had him needlessly placed in Special Ed for years. Just as Benny is allowed to enter a mainstream class, mysterious thefts begin at his retirement home - threatening the home's continued survival.



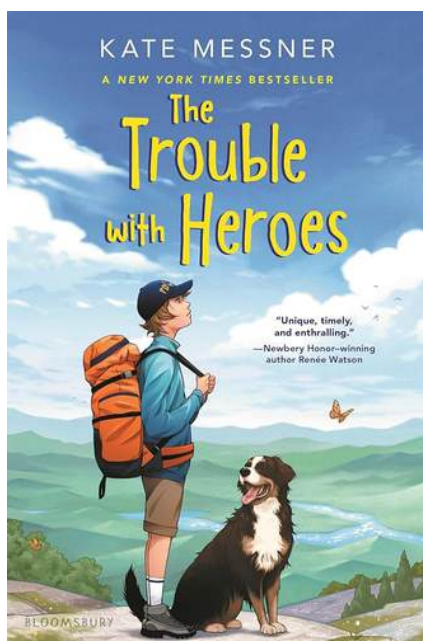
Rainbow Fair

Ma, Diana

8-11 years

Contemporary fiction

It's the school's annual Rainbow Fair and 12-year-old Sophie is preparing to make her Chinese booth again, even though her best friend has abandoned ship to be part of the LGBTQ+ booth. Then one of her teachers learns that Sophie is Muslim and directs Sophie to work on that booth instead. The problem is that Sophie's family is private about their beliefs and Islam doesn't play a large role in Sophie's life.



The Trouble with Heroes

Messner, Kate

9-13 years

Novel in verse/Epistolary/Contemporary fiction

13-year-old Finn is angry and struggling with both the loss of his father and the intimidating legacy that he left behind. When an angry outburst leads to Finn being challenged to climb all of the Adirondack peaks before the end of the summer, Finn's climbs lead to reflection and revelations.



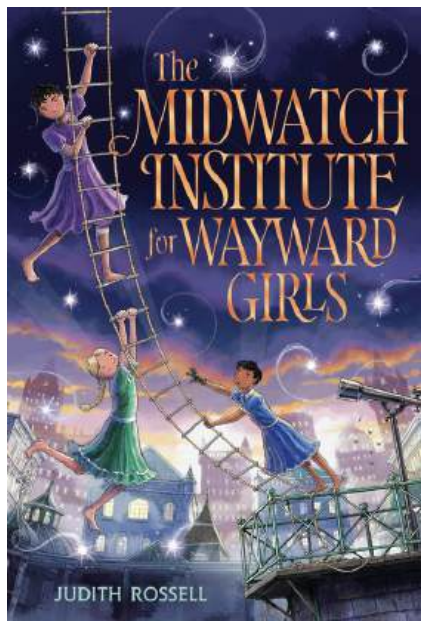
Smoke & Mirrors

Ransaw, Rosalyn

9-12 years

Mystery/Contemporary fiction

12-year-old Andy is staying with his aunt while his dad awaits a parole hearing. One of only a few Black kids in the community, Andy faces prejudice and discrimination. Things come to a head when he is falsely accused of starting a barn fire and instructed to help the grumpy owner restore his old mansion. There, Andy learns about a decades-old crime and becomes determined to prove that the long-assumed culprit was innocent.



The Midwatch Institute for Wayward Girls

Rossell, Judith

8-12 years

Illustrated fiction/Adventure/Steampunk

Magdalena has been sent away from her orphanage to live in a school for wayward girls. Magdalena's resignation turns to excitement when she discovers that the school is a cover for a spy academy. After learning core spy skills, Maggie is sent on her first mission. Text is accompanied by charming black and white illustrations and chapters are interspersed with excerpts from a fictional guide called "Useful Things Every Girl Should Know."



The Pecan Sheller

Ruiz-Flores, Lupe

10-13 years

Historical fiction

13-year-old Petra is trying hard to keep her dream of becoming a writer alive when she is forced to quit school and begin working at a pecan processing plant. With her step-mother struggling to keep a roof over their heads, Petra faces unsafe work conditions and low pay to help out her family. When the conditions become dangerous and the boss decreases the workers' pay, there is no choice but to go on strike.



The Peach Thief

Smith, Linda Joan

Historical fiction

10-13 years

13-year-old Scilla has snuck into an earl's garden looking for food. Her highest hope is that she will find a peach - a fruit she has only eaten once but that she still dreams of. When she is caught red-handed, but mistaken as a boy, she agrees to work on the estate to make amends. The more time she spends there, the more she likes it, but what will happen when her secret is discovered?



Please Pay Attention

Sumner, Jamie

Novel in verse/Contemporary fiction

10-13 years

6th-grader Bea is haunted by the school shooting last year: Classmates and her teacher were killed and Bea felt helpless, sitting in her wheelchair unable to run. With the help of her adoptive mother, supportive neighbours, and equine therapy, Bea slowly begins to move through her PTSD.



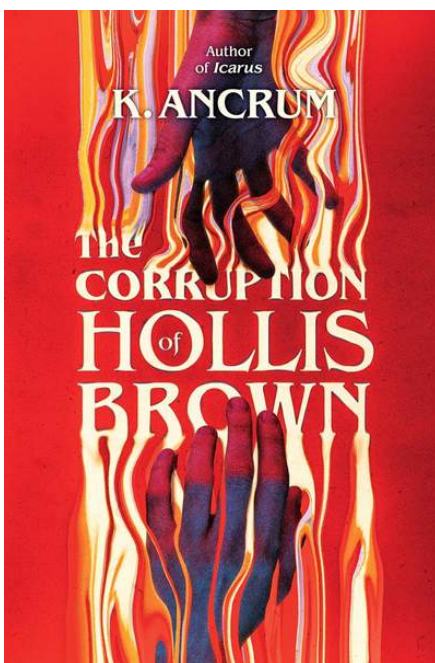
Darkness at Dreamer Mountain

Wolf, Ryan

8-13 years

Hi-lo/Novel in verse/Horror

When 13-year-old Teddy's uncle agrees to let him tag along for a filming of "Shiver Search", Teddy is ready to be creeped out. But the long-abandoned amusement park that they visit goes beyond creepy. Strange noises quickly turn into unsettling events and the film crew soon finds their hidden fears revealed for the world to see.



High School

The Corruption of Hollis Brown

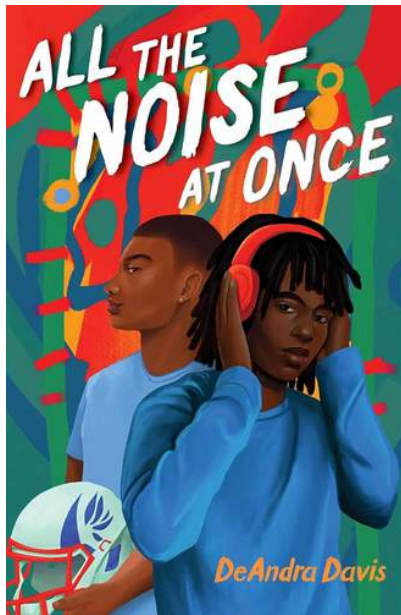
Ancrum, K.

13+ years

Horror/Romance

17-year-old Hollis is angry. Known for risky behaviour and getting into fights, his best friends and his mother are his only solace. After unwittingly making a deal with a ghost and becoming possessed, Hollis and his new "roommate", Walt, eventually come to a truce and then fall for each other. But Hollis' friends are getting suspicious and Walt has a violent history that Hollis isn't aware of.





All the Noise at Once

Davis, DeAndra

14+ years

Contemporary/Sports fiction

16-year-old Aiden is excited to play football with his older brother, Brandon, but not everyone is enthused about someone with autism being on the team. When an altercation gets out of hand, Brandon steps in to protect him and ends up being charged with assaulting an officer. With Brandon's future on the line and their relationship strained, Aiden decides to clear his brother's name.



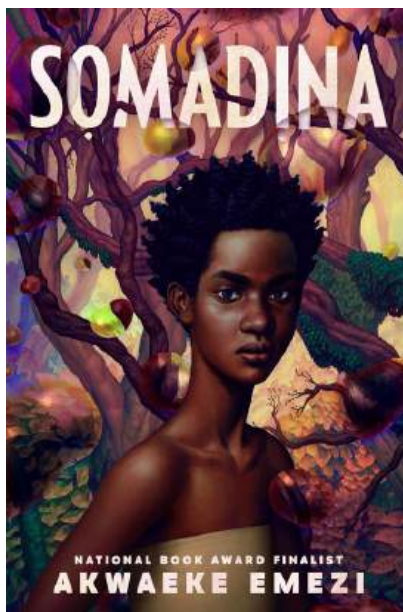
Lovesick Falls

Drake, Julia

12+ years

Retellings/Humour/Contemporary

Celia, Ros, and Touchstone are visiting Lovesick Falls to house-sit. It promises to be a great time until Celia's plans to romance Ros hit a snag in the form of a visiting actor. The relationship drama begets more romantic angst as it turns out that Touchstone's crush on Celia from last summer is not as resolved as she thought it was. As love triangles begin to overlap, things get complicated.



Somadina

Emezi, Akwaeke

13+ years

Fantasy/Adventure

15-year-old Somadina has always been a bit of an outcast. She and her twin brother matured quickly but came into their magic late, and when their magic finally came it was stronger than their community was comfortable with. Now her brother has been kidnapped and Somadina must brave dark realms that most never dare to approach.



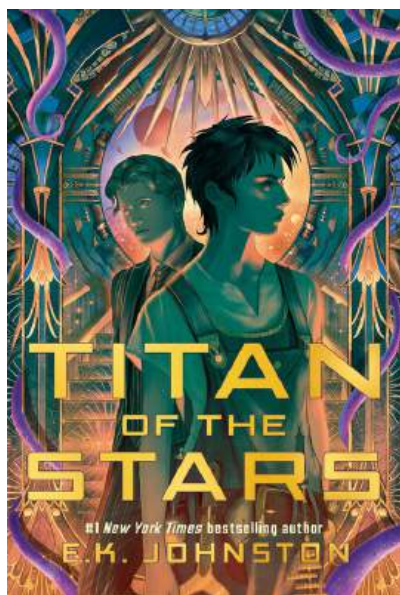
Hyo the Hellmaker

Ghosh, Mina Ikemoto

Graphic novel/Fantasy/Mystery

13+ years

Hyo, a purveyor of bad luck, and her brother Mansaku, a host to a weapon spirit, are one of the only survivors after their village is destroyed. After making a deal with the demon who cursed them, the two end up on an island where gods dwell alongside humans. All too soon, they are navigating complicated politics and a perplexing murder. First in a series.



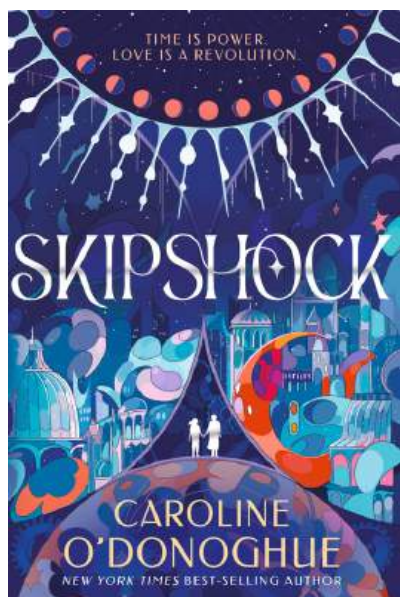
Titan of the Stars

Johnston, E.K.

14+ years

Horror/Science fiction

Celeste is proud to be a junior engineer on Titan, a luxury ship making its maiden voyage to Mars. She has worked hard and fought her way through poverty to get to where she is. Wealthy Dominic would rather be anywhere but on the Titan. The long-dead bodies of aliens found in Canada's melting permafrost are supposed to be a novelty, not a danger, but when their display cases malfunction and the bodies are released, terror reigns. Celeste and Dominic must work together if they have any hopes of surviving the bloodbath. First in a duology; ends on a cliffhanger.



Skipshock

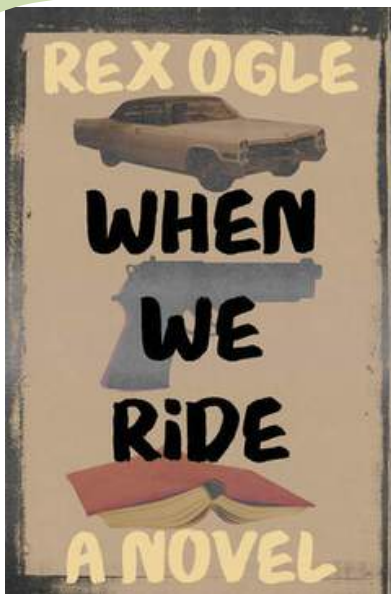
O'Donoghue, Caroline

14+ years

Fantasy/Adventure/Romance

16-year-old Margo is travelling by train when she finds herself in an unexpected car. There, she meets Moon, a travelling salesman who ventures between worlds that feature wildly different time scales. Seeing a potential way out of his doomed profession, Moon recruits Margo to help him get free. Kirkus describes this novel as "Incredibly immersive and utterly unique." First in a duology.





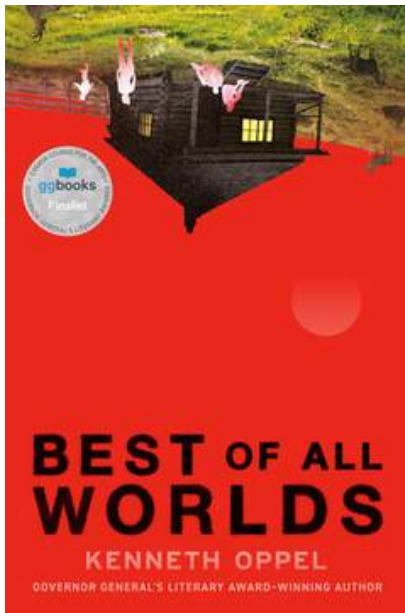
When We Ride

Ogle, Rex

14+ years

Novel in verse/Contemporary fiction

17-year-old Benny has been best friends with Lawrence since they were kids. Both raised by single mothers in poverty, they have a lot in common. When Lawrence begins selling weed, Benny agrees to be his driver. But then Lawrence starts selling harder drugs and things get tense. Torn between his future and their friendship, Benny has a difficult choice to make.



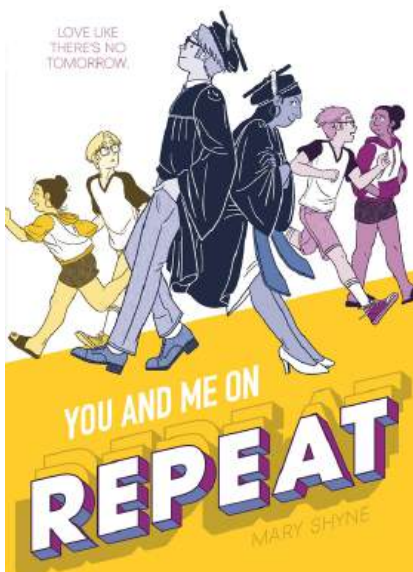
Best of All Worlds 🍁

Oppel, Kenneth

14+ years

Mystery/Science fiction/Dystopia

When Xavier was 13-years-old, he, his father, and his step-mother woke up to discover that their vacation cabin had been moved and they were trapped in a wilderness contained inside a strange dome. Three years later, they have figured out how to survive and made a kind of peace with their situation. Then another family appears.



You and Me on Repeat

Shyne, Mary

14+ years

Graphic novel/Science fiction/Romance

Chris and Alicia are reliving the day they graduated from high school over and over again. The two haven't been friends since Chris left Alicia behind in middle school to join the cool crowd. Chris is convinced that if he can manage to kiss his crush, Miranda, the time loop will end. Alicia is pretty sure he's wrong. As the two try to solve their Groundhog Day conundrum, their friendship and something more begins to rekindle.



Features

Sarah's Storytime Spot - Sarah Bagshaw

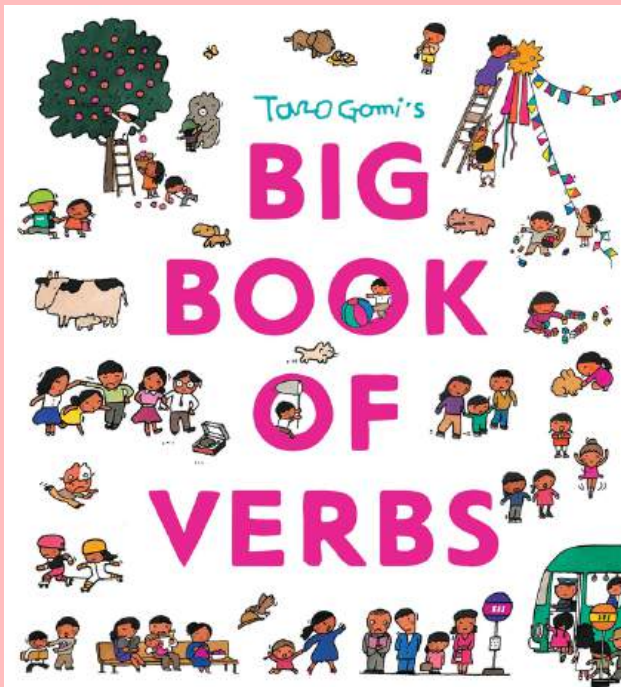
Need a new book idea or a new song or rhyme for your storytime? Then hopefully I can help you!

Contact me any time with questions or suggestions - Sarah.Bagshaw@vpl.ca



Have you heard of Tarō Gomi? Have you perchance seen any of this Japanese authorstrator's books? No? Well it's time to search them out! His distinctive stylised art is very appealing. Paired with simple text, he creates wonderful little stories, many of which are quite mischievous and funny.

Tarō Gomi studied at the Kuwazawa Design Institute and published his first children's book in 1973. He went on to publish hundreds of books, as well as work in different mediums, designing such things as stationary and clothing.



He has also worked in the production of animated children's videos. Over his long career he has won many awards including the Mildred L. Batchelder Award for Over the Ocean in 2017 and the Bologna Children's Book Fair Award. This 80 year old creator continues to produce books with his most recent - Tarō Gomi's Big Book of Verbs published in North America this year.



When Yumi and her grandma, who live apart, decide to go visit each other, what could go wrong? A single short sentence per page moves the story along, but much of what is happening is in the illustrations. This book would work well with a smaller group of older toddlers or preschoolers who can sit closer, allowing you to point out things in the pictures, like Yumi on the bus and Grandma on the train, passing each other. Gomi captures facial expressions so well with minimal lines as illustrated on the cover. I also love how this book shares a wonderful inter-generational relationship between Yumi and her grandmother - they just can't wait to see each other!



Since the book contains a bus, train, car, truck, scooter, and motorcycle, a song involving things that go would be most appropriate! *Wheels on the Bus* is a good standby, but how about [I'll Take You Ridin' in My Car](#) with lots of actions to do and sounds to make. Or what about a twist on *Row, Row, Row Your Boat - Drive, Drive, Drive Your Truck?*

*Drive, drive, drive your truck,
All around the town.
Merrily, merrily, merrily, merrily,
Up the hills and down.*

*Turn, turn, turn the key,
Make the engine roar,
Merrily, merrily, merrily, merrily,
Let's go to the store.*

*Press, press, press the pedal,
Give the engine gas,
Merrily, merrily, merrily, merrily,
Now we're going fast.*

*Turn, turn, turn the wheel,
That is how we steer.
Merrily, merrily, merrily, merrily,
Make a turn right here.*

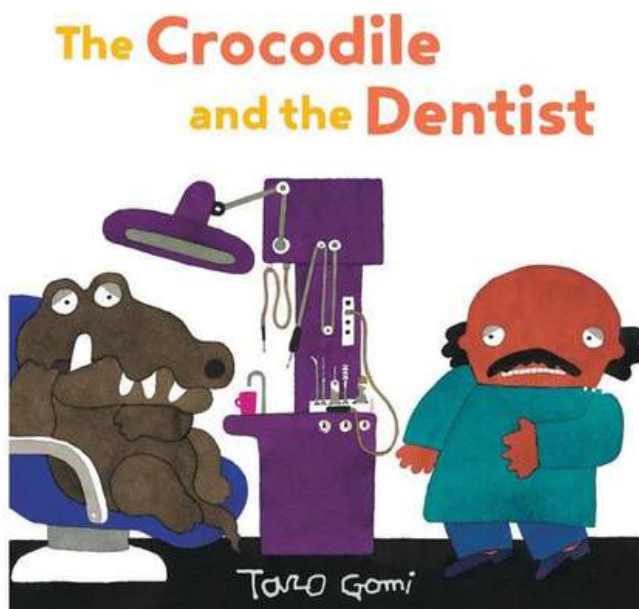
*Push, push, push the brake,
Make the truck slow down.
Merrily, merrily, merrily, merrily,
Now we are in the town.*

*(Credit: North Olympic Library System's Trucks -
Storytime to Go)*



Another really cute and funny one, but also illustrating feelings, is *The Crocodile and the Dentist*. What makes it super special is that the illustrations have one side showing the crocodile's point of view and the other side of the page showing the dentist's point of view. AND they are saying the same thing each time!! With the added bonus of a reminder to brush your teeth at the end too. Again, Gomi uses both the crocodile and the dentist's facial expressions to show the emotions being mentioned in the spare text on the page to great effect. This is the perfect time to pause and ask the children in your storytime to show you how being scared looks, or being angry, etc. when you are on those pages. An element of interaction is always good for the kiddos who are starting to wriggle a little bit.

I don't know any good "teeth" songs for storytime (if you do, let me know!). So perhaps a song about feelings could go well with this one as fear, courage, determination, anger, and relief are all featured in this book. An obvious one is *If You're Happy and You Know It* with movements or facial expressions to go with the feelings illustrated. For something different try using the chorus from the song **Alligator Jump** by Tom Knight as a simple action rhyme to get the wiggles out and changing alligator to crocodile.



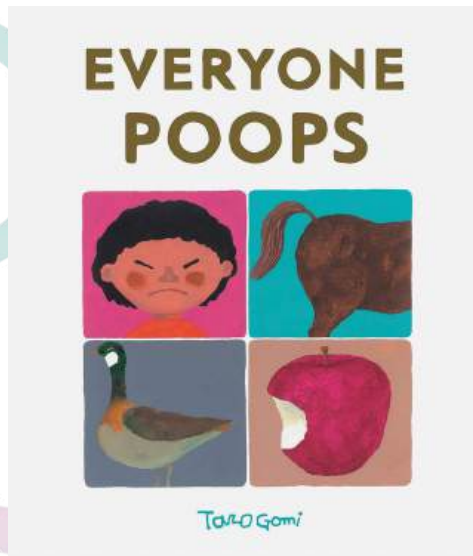
***Alligator Jump:**
Alligators jump
Alligators slide
All the alligators like to move
from side to side

Alligators grunt
Alligators giggle
All the alligators like to turn
around and wiggle*

Tarō Gomi's books are well worth sharing with families. Here are some more:

Everyone Poops

Published in 1993, this book continues to be a favourite with the potty training crowd. You could use it in storytime as it is pretty funny, but also poo - so it really would depend on your audience!



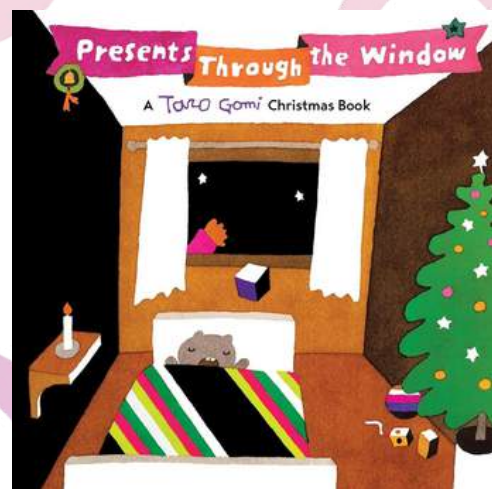
Little Chicks

Another cute board book about, well running again! Three little chicks go exploring all over and end up back at home again.



Run, Run, Run!

Where a race to the finish line is nowhere near as fun as running through all sorts of different places.



Present Through the Window

For families that celebrate Christmas, this is a delightfully funny take on Santa delivery presents. Peering into the window to guess who is there and therefore, what present to deliver results in some silly mistakes. This is a fun one to have children guess who is home, just like Santa is doing and definitely would work for storytime!



Features

Taste Test Challenge - Katie Lloyd and Lisa Furfaro



Looking to spice up your programming for tweens? A Taste Test Challenge might be just what you need! (Big shout out to the [Ontarian Librarian](#) for the original inspiration!)

In this hilarious and slightly mysterious event, kids are blindfolded and served a series of wild and wacky food and drink samples. Their job? Try each item and guess what they're eating - *without* seeing it! After all the tasting is done, we do a grand reveal, often ending in giggles, gasps, and groans as they compare their guesses to the actual foods.

Planning

Like any successful library program, this one takes a bit of planning. We made it a registered event so we could control numbers and plan accordingly. We set the age range to 9–13 and had a great turnout across the age spectrum. Pro tip: Make sure your registration form includes a required field for food allergies and dietary restrictions.

Once we knew what we couldn't buy, we began planning what we could buy. We ended up with the following items:

- Harvest Snaps: Wasabi Ranch
- Marshmallow Fluff
- Cheddar Veggie Straws
- Coca Cola
- Pepsi
- Cilantro
- Banana Tofu Dessert
- Ginger Beer
- Pickles
- Pomelo
- Magic Masala Lays Chips
- Sour Jolly Rancher (Blue Raspberry)



We aimed to have a mix of sweet, sour, salty, spicy, and unexpected flavours! We also wanted things that kids would not typically try on their own. The combination of foods and drinks also worked really well. A Taste Test Challenge guessing card was made and printed off ahead of time so that the kids were able to write down their guesses after each round.

Set Up

Prepping the food ahead of time was key. We cut up the pomelo and divided the crunchy snacks in to plastic cups. For the veggie straws and harvest snaps, popular snacks that may be easily recognizable based on shape, we crushed them up so to make it a little more difficult for the kids to recognize them right away. The marshmallow fluff and banana tofu dessert remained in their containers and were served individually on plastic spoons. All of these items were then hidden in a box to keep them secret from the kids.



We had 10 kids registered for the event. Based on staff availability and the size of our program room this was the perfect number of kids to host. We set up tables in a “U” shape with chairs on the outer edge. This allowed us to easily be able to serve each food item without reaching over anybody. At each place, we set a plate, two cups, a blindfold, a Taste Test Challenge guessing sheet, and pencil. Each kid got a cup of water alongside their challenge items.

We had gloves, tongs, extra cups, spoons, and plates set aside in case they were needed. Then we were ready to host the Taste Test Challenge!



Running the Event

As the kids came into the room we checked them in as it was a registered event and directed them to take a seat. We asked how many kids had done a taste test challenge before and very few had but everyone was very excited about it. There were lots of questions about what we would be eating and we reassured the kids that everything was actually food (earth worms were a big concern for some). It was clear that this was a highly anticipated event!

After introductions and double checking food allergies again, it was time for the kids to put their blindfolds on. We ran the tasting rounds as follows:

- Blindfolds go on
- Serve the kids a small portion of one item
- Have them taste it
- After everyone had finished (or thrown out) their item blindfolds would come off
- The kids would write down their guesses
- Repeat!



Some kids loved every item while others did not (the Ginger Beer in particular seemed to be a “gross” round) but everybody had fun trying everything. We had a cup set to the side to take over to the kids if they tried something they didn’t want to finish. It’s important to make sure the plates are cleared before taking blindfolds off so they can’t see what they were just eating.

There were lots of laughs throughout the whole event as they tried to guess what they had just eaten. Some kids were stumped on what to write so we encouraged them to write descriptive words instead such as flavour (sweet, sour, spicy, mild) and texture.



The kids were also really engaged with each other, laughing and encouraging each other while discussing what they had just eaten. The kids guessed a lot of the items correctly while others like Ginger Beer and cilantro presented a bigger challenge. Having the Coca Cola and Pepsi served one after the other was a particularly fun challenge! We had a good mix of familiar and new items for them to try.

This event was a hit from start to finish and works well any time of the year. The balance of silly fun and a sensory challenge made it perfect for tweens. There was *lots* of laughter, plenty of “WHAT?!”, and even a few proud fist-pumps when someone nailed a tough one. Overall, this event was a success and the kids loved it!

Katie Lloyd was the Summer Library Assistant at Gibsons & District Public Library who helped bring this program to life alongside the Child, Youth & Community Programming Coordinator, Lisa Furfaro.

Features ✨

The Classics Reimagined: A Sample from Birth to Young Adulthood - Alex Loewen

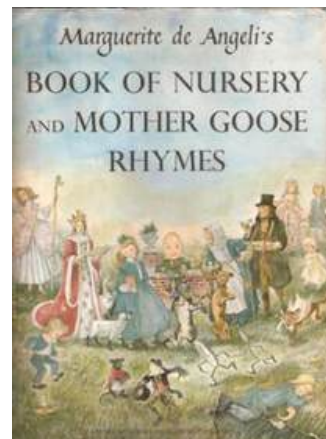


This article was inspired by a graduate studies assignment completed in Tess Prendergast's course, LIBR 520 Literature and other materials for children, at the iSchool at UBC in 2023.

Classic works of children's literature are cultural touchstones across generations, but can be problematic in their representations. What if we could find a way to enjoy the essence of the classic stories that we know and love, but bring them into our value system in the present day? At the very least, breathing new life into an old trope is refreshing. Below are some 'updates' to classics that are true to the spirit of the original, but reimagined in a more inclusive, kid-friendly way.



Baby - from nursery rhymes to rhymes reimagined

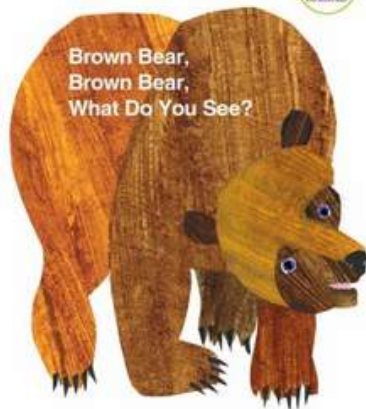


You don't need to be an early literacy scholar to be aware of the benefits of nursery rhymes. But maybe you're looking for more current words to pair with the classic tunes? [mama nous](#) writes songs promoting emotional intelligence and resilience from the comfort of her home studio. As you listen to her music you may even feel your own inner child healing. The vibes are Mr Rogers meets woodland faerie - gentle, sincere, and empowering. She breathes new life into familiar nursery rhymes and tunes, doing away with the traditional references to the bubonic plague or cradles falling out of boughs that break.



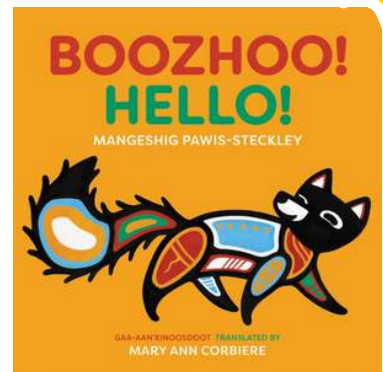
I've added the first verse of worrying has never changed a thing into my baby storytimes as a lullaby. We sing it as a call and response first, and then sing it together while patting, tapping a grounding beat on ourselves or the babes. I'm not exaggerating when I say that I still get emotional when leading this; I can't think of a song that delivers a more powerful, simple, poignant reminder to anyone going through the postpartum experience. Other songs I'm eager to try out at baby storytime? i miss you when you're sleeping and hush little baby. I suggest starting with her rhymes reimaged album.

Bill Martin Jr / Eric Carle



Toddler/Preschool -

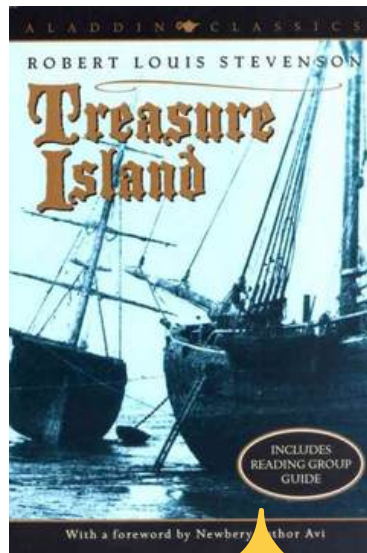
from Brown Bear, Brown Bear, What Do You See? By Bill Martin Jr. and Eric Carle
to Boozhoo! Hello! By Mangeshig Pawis-Steckley translated by Mary Ann Corbiere



Since 1967 Brown Bear, Brown Bear What Do You See? has been loved for generations and will surely continue to for many more. But if you are looking for something that takes the same soul of the classic picture book and makes it new again with an Indigenous voice and artwork, look no further. Say hello to everyone in the woods in Boozhoo! Hello! a bilingual Anishinaabewomin/English picture book with both languages represented on the pages. Readers familiar with Brown Bear, Brown Bear will recognize the question-answer pattern of the text. The bold illustrations will pull in the attention of little readers - even the ones at the back of the storytime space. Plus, the opportunities for participatory animal noises will keep them engaged from the first page to the last.

School Age -

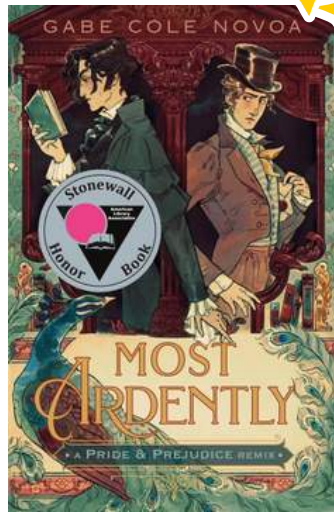
*from Treasure Island
by Robert Louis
Stevenson
to Double O Stephen
and the Ghostly
Realm by Angela Ahn*



Treasure Island is an infamous coming-of-age story known for its sense of adventure and is largely credited with giving us our modern archetype of pirates with treasure maps, parrots on the shoulder, and peg legs.

On the other hand, it also uses racist language and stereotypes that were typical of the Victorian period in which it was written. Double O Stephen and the Ghostly Realm gives the reader all the same swashbuckling drama, but with a charmingly ethical protagonist. Stephen is obsessed with pirate stories, except for the stealing part, which he knows to be morally reprehensible. On a day he is unexpectedly absent from school, he visits the museum where he is flung into a supernatural dimension populated by ghosts and meets a pirate captain in need of his help to tidy up some unfinished business among the living. This upbeat middle grade novel scores bonus points for being set in an unnamed Vancouver-inspired city that I find both familiar and comforting.

Alex Loewen (she/her) is a Children's Librarian at the Innisfil IdeaLAB&Library. Her favourite parts of her job are matching kids with their new favourite picture book, leading baby storytimes, and creating moments of whimsy for families to stumble upon in the library.



Teen -
from *Pride and Prejudice*
by Jane Austen
to *Most Ardently* by Gabe
Cole Novoa



There have been so many riffs on *Pride and Prejudice*, but what if Elizabeth Bennett's role was filled by a trans boy named Oliver instead? Oliver is misunderstood by his family who continues to call him Elizabeth and expects him to wear dresses and find a suitable husband. To escape, Oliver sneaks out and explores London dressed as a young man where he crosses paths with Darcy. In the face of their love, Oliver is forced to face the unforgiving constraints of his Regency era world and decide if authenticity is worth risking it all.

This novel is part of the Remixed Classics series - a collection of YA novels written by different established YA authors that take a classic work of literature and transpose new histories, locations, and identities into the narrative to explore the complex and intersectional systems of power that are so rarely acknowledged in the classics. It is well worth looking up the other novels in this series as they make for a great reader's advisory tidbit to have in your back pocket. Next I have my eye on Cherie Dimaline's *Secret Garden* remix, *Into the Bright Open*.

This is only a sample of the books bringing our past up to speed with the present. Reimagining the canon of children's literature by showcasing new voices, or playing with the elements of a story breathe compelling perspectives into familiar narratives and challenge the status quo. What are your favourite classics reimagined?





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.

2026 Submission Deadlines

TBD

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, 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 **January 28th**, **February 25th**, and **March 25th**. Links to meetings will be shared on the [YAACS forum](#), and everyone is welcome!