



YAACING

SPRING 2025

MAGAZINE FOR THE YOUNG ADULT AND CHILDREN'S 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 Sḵwx̱wú7mesh (Squamish), Stó:lō and Səl̓ílwətaʔ/Selilwitulh (Tsleil-Waututh) and xʷməθkʷəy̓əm (Musqueam) Nations. This issue features pieces from what is currently known as Metro Vauncouver 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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Help Us Plan The Future of YAACS!

What age group(s) do you work with? Have you seen our new YAACING submission guidelines? Whan 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 YAACS Members,

As seems to be tradition, I'd like to start this letter with a massive thank you. This time I am expressing my endless gratitude to Rhiannon Wallace. Rhiannon has been on the YAACS executive team for 5 years, and before that she volunteered as the YAACS secretary and the UBC iSchool Student Liaison. YAACS has benefited endlessly from Rhiannon's passion for all things youth services and her ability to persevere during uncertain times. While Rhiannon is moving on, she is not saying goodbye. We look forward to reading Rhiannon's future YAACING articles and learning from her at our monthly meetings. (PS: Rhiannon has also written an excellent children's book!)

If you attended YAACS' Annual Section Meeting in April, you got a sneak peek at our new Terms of Reference. The adoption of these new streamlined Terms of Reference is the culmination of all the updates we have made to YAACS over the past two years. Essentially, updating our Terms of Reference makes these changes official.

One notable change in our Terms of Reference is our switch to a co-chair model from our current president system. I am thrilled to welcome Brenna Cullen as our new YAACS co-chair! Brenna has been patiently waiting in the wings and learning the history of YAACS while we worked to update our systems. Brenna, I am excited to finally have you on the team!

Emily Gow

Letters

Letter from Veronica Blott, YAACING Editor

Happy Spring YAACING Readers!

In our first issue of 2025 we have an array of exciting articles, tools and resources for you all. To kick off the issue, Lindsay Krabbenhoft has curated a thorough guide on the creation and use of sensory kits and Marilyn MacPherson from the Red Cedar Awards speaks about the social impact of their shortlisted titles. Sadie Tucker is at it again with another wonderful list of new & noteworthy titles to check out.

We also have a helpful guide on getting reading for Summer Reading Club from the new BC SRC Provincial Coordinator, Georgia Franklin! Sarah Bagshaw is back with a new feature, “Sarah’s Storytime Spot” which dives into notable “authostrators” and how their work can be incorporated into storytime programs. Rhiannon Wallace has prepared an amazing comic on passive programming for teens with tons of helpful tips and ideas and Raoul Fernandez shares fun craft ideas like paper cup animations from his Studio Monday’s program.

I would also like to thank our new cover artist, Marita, for the amazing cover and Justin, our Art Director, for putting together another beautiful issue!

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

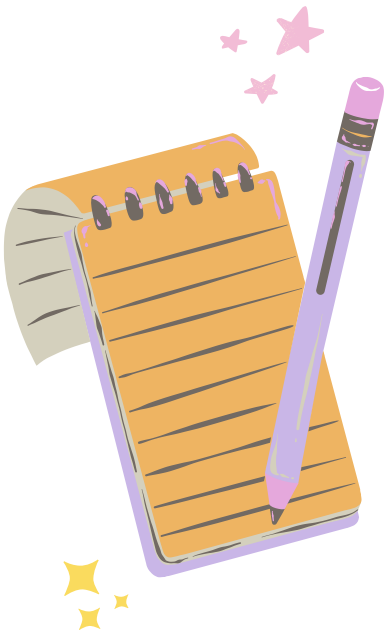
Happy reading!

Veronica Blott

Columns

I'll Link to That: Sensory Kits -Lindsey Krabbenhoft

As youth services staff we are always thinking about ways to make the library more welcoming and inclusive for all kids, teens, and families. One way libraries have been working towards inclusivity is through the creation of Sensory Kits. A Sensory Kit is a collection of items designed to help people manage sensory processing challenges and self-regulate their emotions and behaviors. These kits are particularly useful for people with autism, ADHD, sensory processing disorder, and other neurodiverse conditions. Some libraries reserve these kits at the service desk for families who need them, while other libraries circulate them like books. Here are some examples of the different ways libraries have created and implemented Sensory Kits, including specific item recommendations.



Autism Ready Libraries Toolkit

The first place to start is this jam-packed toolkit created by the IMLS and iSchool at the University of Washington. Inside you will find a Sensory Kit Checklist which includes a checklist of items to include, descriptions of each item, and how to use a sensory kit at your library. The pictures are bright and clear, making it easy to get a sense of what these are all about if you've never seen one before.

Richmond Public Library

You can view a 3-page PDF of all the items found in these kits that were developed in consultation with AIDE Canada and Aspire Richmond RPL does an exceptional job of explaining the kits to the public through a dedicated webpage with FAQs and links to further resources.

Halifax Public Library
HPL partnered with Autism Nova Scotia to create different types of Autism Took Kits families can borrow and take home. You can find a detailed listing with pictures of each of the following four types of kits: Sensory Tools, Visual Tools, Fidget Tools, and Communication Tools.

Calgary Public Library
CPL became a community partner of the Sensory Backpack Program initiative, a partnership between Variety – the Children's Charity and Calgary Heritage Lions Club. They advertise these backpacks, available for use in the library, on their Accessibility webpage. This partnership is a good example of how to provide access to a resource even if the library cannot afford to purchase all of the items.

Crete Public Library District
At this library the Sensory Kits are divided into categories such as Relaxation, Movement, Focus, Fidgets, and Emotions/Feelings. These kits were the only ones I've seen to infuse a literacy component by adding a few thematic picture books to each bag. They also include a booklet that explains how to use each item in case caregivers are uncertain. Both are great additions for kits you can check out and take home.

Racine Public Library
Hailing from Wisconsin, RPL went even further than offering kits by creating a dedicated Sensory Room which they describe as "a quiet space to take a break, de-stress and stim." Filled with both loose part toys and wall-mounted features, this space can be booked in advance by families. Don't have a full room to offer? Take inspiration from this space to carve out a small nook or corner at your library.

Does your library offer Sensory Kits? If you have any items that you think are a must-have feel free to shoot me an email at jbrary@gmail.com.



Image Source: Richmond Public Library.

Columns

Red Cedar Awards - The Importance of Reader Choice Awards: Reading Red Cedar
- Marilyn MacPherson

One of the joys of volunteering for the Red Cedar Book Award is seeing the wonderful stories written, illustrated, and published in Canada by Canadians. Another is knowing that the Award is giving kids across the province the opportunity to see themselves, their friends, their family, and others outside their circle reflected in these stories.

Reading and learning about lived experiences is becoming vitally important in a world in which loud voices are seeking to stifle all but their own views. As time marches through the 21st century, the clock is ticking back to a period when books were demonized by those who didn't want to understand nor accept any world view that was outside of their own. As you know, stories about who you are and of the experiences of others is increasingly being challenged here in Canada and beyond our borders.

The Red Cedar Book Award has resolutely stood behind its shortlists which have included powerful histories of civil rights activists, the environment, LGBTQIA2S+, stories celebrating science, stories of child abuse which over 60% of children in Canada have experienced, stories of the shameful legacy of Residential schools, and stories about kids who want to live life on their own terms with creativity and resilience while living in a world that only offers socio-economic or political hardship.

So please, take a look at the shortlists, consider volunteering, and take a few minutes to think about how important programs like the Red Cedar Book Award are in developing critical literacy skills and social awareness.

For more information about the Red Cedar Book Award, (the 2024/25 season is quickly coming to an end with voting taking place from May 1-15 online!), please visit redcedaraward.ca

Written by: Marilyn MacPherson, Librarian and President of the Young Readers' Choice Book Award Society of British Columbia.



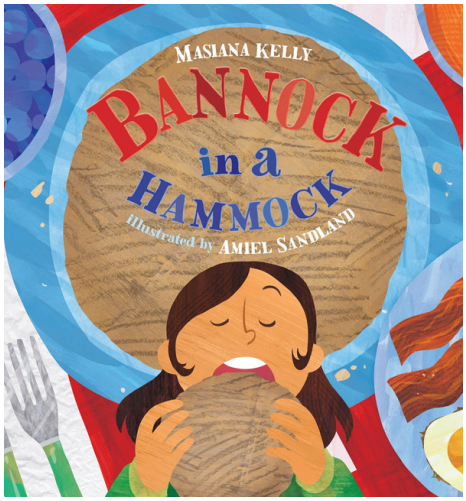
Columns

New and Noteworthy Books - Sadie Tucker



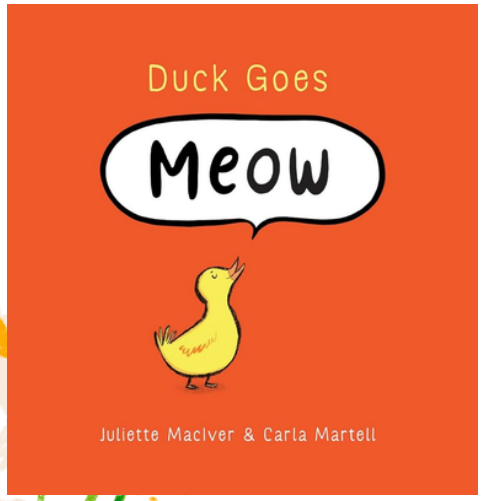
So many new books, so little time... Join me while I grow my teetering TBR pile.

Sadie is children's librarians at the Vancouver Public Library and Burnaby Public Library

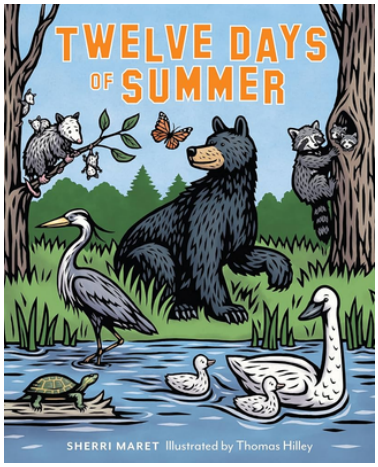


Picture Books – Babies & Preschoolers

Bannock in a Hammock
Kelly, Masiana
2-5 years
A fun rhyme about the many delicious ways to eat bannock! The text is playful, making it an engaging read-aloud. The illustrations might not hold up for a very large storytime group, however.



Duck Goes Meow
MacIver, Juliette
2-5 years
A group of animals is shocked when a little duckling says, "Meow." The animals try to convince the duckling to quack like a duck, kindly explaining to the little one that every animal has their own special sound. When the duckling's mama arrives, it becomes clear why the duckling speaks the way it does. A heart-warming twist on an old picture book trope.



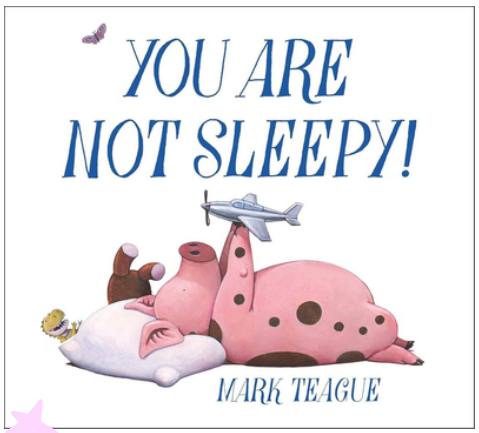
Twelve Days of Summer
Maret, Sherri
3-6 years
Starting with a bear in an oak tree, join an increasing number of animals as the days of summer go by. A fun cumulative book for storytimes.



Can You Do This? An Imagination Play Book
Roy, Megan
2-5 years
Have a restless storytime crew? Need to get them up and moving? Look no further. The movement challenges start off reasonably sedate (if you consider hopping "sedate") and quickly ramp up to silly dances, kicking, and stomping. Get ready to stand up and then lie down on the floor!



This is How We Play: A Celebration of Disability and Adaptation
Slice, Jessica
3-6 years
A joyous celebration of all the ways that we play and the tools and accommodations that help to make play happen.



You Are Not Sleepy!
Teague, Mark
3-6 years years
After storytime, it's time for Pig's nap but they aren't sleepy! As Pig does their best to make the environment conducive to sleep, their actions have unforeseen consequences that delay naptime even further. Told in second person, the illustrations and premise are well-suited for storytimes.

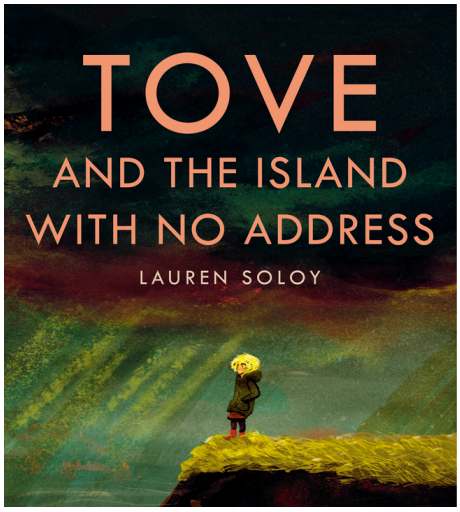
Picture Books – Big(ger) Kids



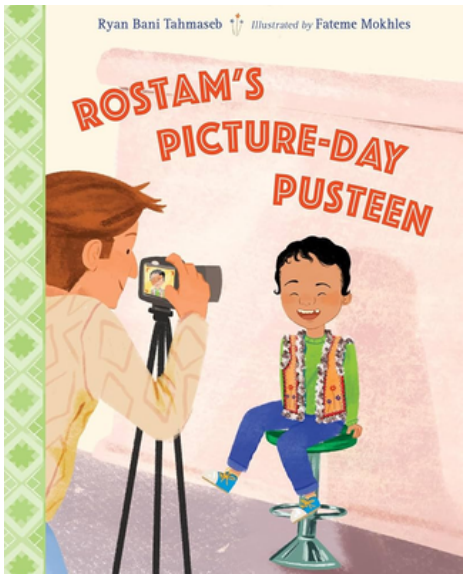
The Band in Our Basement
Baptist, Kelly J.
4-8 years
Daddy's band is playing in the basement but a brother and sister are firmly told by their Mama that they must stay in bed. Unable to resist the music, the two sneakily get up to dance. Soon the catchy beats lure them downstairs. Will they be allowed to join the party? A fun, rhythmic read all about enjoying the beat.



Springtime Storks: A Migration Love Story 🍁
Munro, Carol Joy
5-8 years
When Katerina, a stork, is shot by a hunter at the beginning of her migration, she is rescued by a caring family. As Katerina is no longer able to fly long distances, her mate, Luka, returns every spring to join her and raise chicks. A story to pull at your heartstrings. Back-matter includes the real-life story that served as inspiration and information about the species of birds mentioned in the book.



Tove and the Island with No Address 🍁
Soloy, Lauren
4-8 years
This story follows young Tove as she and her family head to the island where they spend all of their summers. One of the first things she does is go to greet a magical little creature that lives in a grotto. After agreeing to watch over his five feisty daughters, a storm blows in and sweeps them away. An ode adventurous souls and nature's wild spirit. A short biography of Tove Jansson, the creator of *Moomin*, is found as back matter.

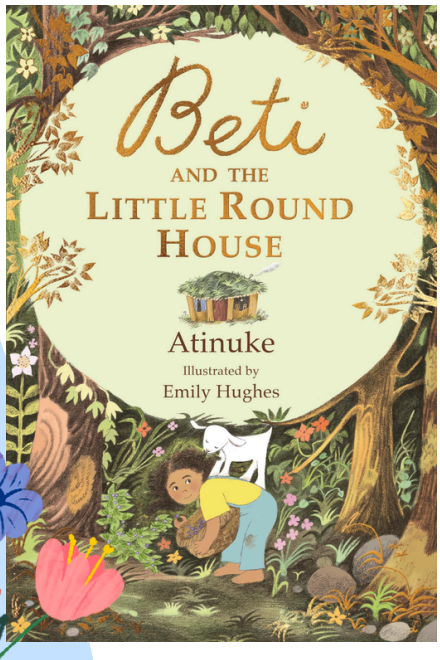


Rostam's Picture-day Pusteen
Tahmaseb, Ryan Bani
4-8 years
Rostam is afraid that if he wears his dad's pusteen, a traditional Iranian shepherd's vest, for picture day at school the other kids will make fun of him. A common theme, but Rostam in his pusteen is met with curiosity, admiration, and excitement. There is no bully to overcome here, just joy.

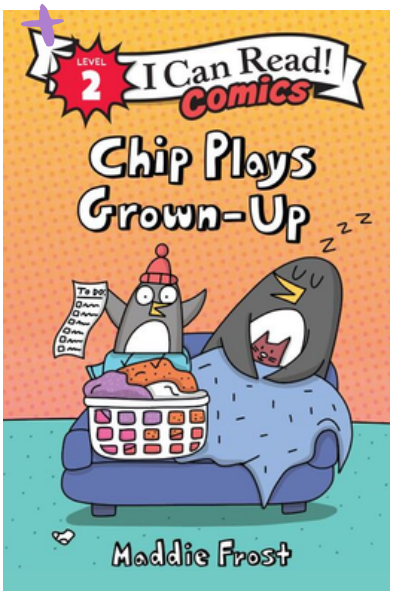


Grampy's Chair
Thomas, Rebecca
4-8 years
An armchair observes and cares for its family. Over the years, Chair has watched Grampy care for a little girl it knows as My Love. Like a beloved family member, the chair is always there to provide support. When Grampy passes away, Chair is moved to the attic. Will it ever see My Love again? A sweet and gentle story that could easily be used in writing programs to explore narrative perspective.

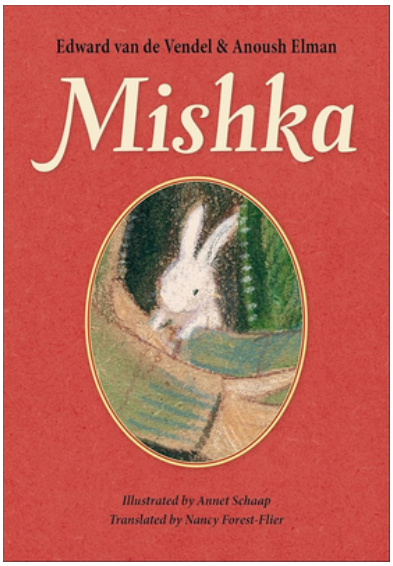
School Age – Primary



Beti and the Little Round House
Atinuke
Illustrated chapter book
6-9 years
Beti lives with her family near the woods, where they keep animals, forage, and garden. Four stories, one for each season, follow Beti as she faces different challenges, from learning to love an irksome goat to trying to feed all the animals when the rest of her family is ill. A sweet collection of stories that focus on family and community.

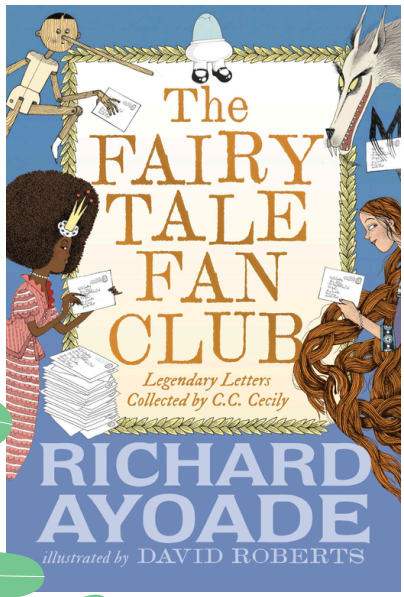


Chip Plays Grown-Up
Frost, Maddie
Reader/Graphic novel
3-6 years
Chip doesn't want to go to bed. He isn't tired and is in the middle of doing "office work". He would much rather stay up and watch TV like adults do. When Chip suggests that Mom be the kid and he be the grown-up, she agrees. Turns out, being the grown-up isn't quite as easy as it looks. An adorable, tongue-in-cheek book that will have both kids and adults smiling.

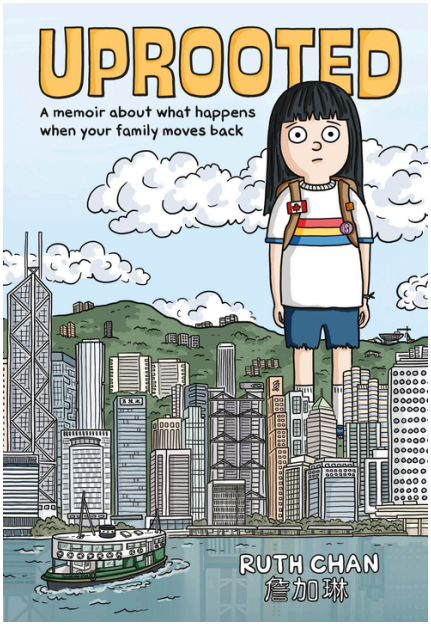


Mishka
Vendel, Edward van de
Illustrated chapter book
7-10 years
Roya was little when her family left Afghanistan and she barely remembers the perilous journey. Now 9-years-old, Roya and her family have been granted permission to live permanently in the Netherlands. To celebrate, they buy a bunny that Roya names Mishka. Through Mishka, Roya's parents and older brothers slowly open up and talk about the danger and fear they experienced both during the trip and afterwards. A warm story despite the tough topic.

<u>School Age Fiction – Intermediate</u>



The Fairy Tale Fan Club
Ayoade, Richard
Epistolary/Humorous fiction
8-12 years
A fairy tale aficionado, C.C. Cecily has collected the letters sent to and from some of fairy tales' most popular protagonists. Have you ever wondered how Little Red Riding Hood managed to mistake a wolf for her grandmother or where Rumpelstiltskin is now? If you answered yes, this laugh-out-loud book is for you!



Uprooted: A Memoir About What Happens When Your Family Moves Back 🍁
Chan, Ruth
Graphic novel/Memoir
9-13 years
13-year-old Ruth and her family are moving to Hong Kong from Toronto. For her parents, this is a kind of homecoming; for Ruth, it's a nightmare. She misses her friends, her Cantonese is only passable, and her parents are always busy. As she struggles to settle in, she gradually learns more about her father's side of the family and their harrowing escape from the Sino-Japanese War. Maybe her family knows a little bit about what she's going through after all.



Chickenpox
Lai, Remy
Graphic novel/Historical fiction
9-12 years
12-year-old Abby has absolutely had it with her three younger siblings, to the point where her friends have called her out. And that's before they all get chickenpox. Stuck inside with three overactive siblings who refuse to give her space, Abby must dig into a well of patience she didn't know she had. In doing so, she gains a new perspective on tolerance and grace.



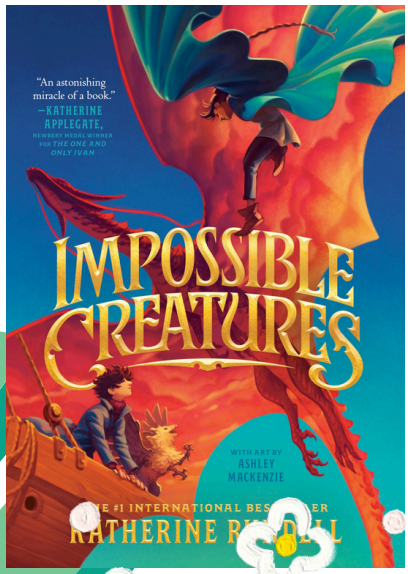
Quagmire Tiarello Couldn't Be Better
Larsen, Mylisa
Contemporary fiction
11-14 years
14-year-old Quag is good at taking care of himself. Sure, sometimes he comes off as a little contrary, but he does what he has to do to protect his mom and take care of himself when she occasionally spins out. When his mom has a particularly dramatic episode right after Quag has agreed to help some almost-friends with an art camp project, he is faced with the possibility that he can no longer protect his mom. A compassionate read with just the right amount of



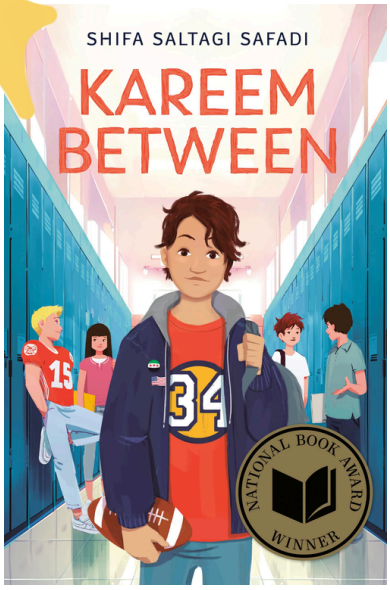
Deer Run Home
LeZotte, Ann Clare
Novel in verse/Realistic
10-14 years
12-year-old Effie is Deaf, but no one in her family has learned ASL. This means that they communicate using stomping, pointing, and occasionally rude gestures. But that isn't all that Effie has had to deal with. When Effie's aide at school begins to suspect the true conditions of Effie's home-life, Effie is presented with the opportunity to not only escape her precarious situation, but also the chance to finally disclose her experience of sexual abuse at the hands of her step-father.



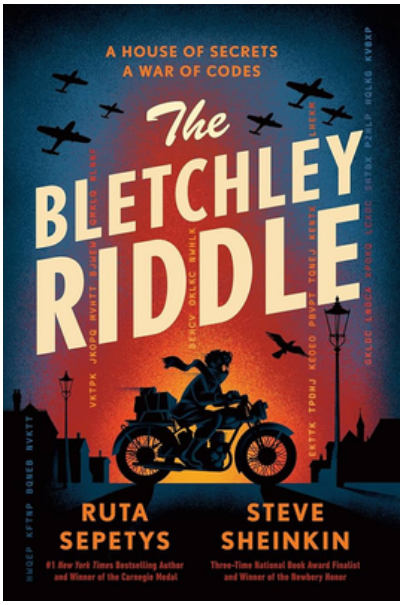
Bye Forever, I Guess
Meadows, Jodi
Contemporary fiction/Romance
10-13 years
13-year-old Ingrid is a nobody at school. She's the girl with dead parents and the charity case of her supposed friend, Rachel. Online, however, Ingrid's anonymous persona is well-known for sharing hilarious messages from wrong numbers. Online is also where she games with her BFF, Lorren, who lives in another state. When Ingrid strikes up a texting friendship with one of her wrong numbers, she begins to suspect that her new pal goes to her school. Will Ingrid let down her walls in real-life? Should she?



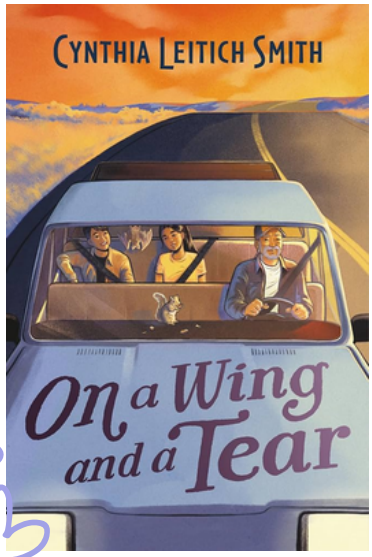
Impossible Creatures
Rundell, Katherine
Fantasy/Adventure
8-12 years
Christopher has just learned that his family are the caretakers of the entrance to the Archipelago - the last place on Earth that has magic and hosts a plethora of fantastical creatures. The only problem is that the magic is fading. Alongside Mal, a girl on the run from a dangerous killer, Christopher must track down the source of the problem and save the Archipelago before it's too late.



Kareem Between
Safadi, Shifa Saltagi
Novel in verse/Contemporary fiction
10-13 years
7th-grader Kareem has had a brutal start to the school year: He was cut from the football team, his mom went to Syria to get his grandparents and can't make it back into the US, and now Kareem is stuck showing around a new student from Syria who has an embarrassingly thick accent. When Kareem is given the chance to get back on the football team in exchange for helping someone cheat on an essay, he is forced to examine his values and reconsider what he is willing to do in order to fit in.

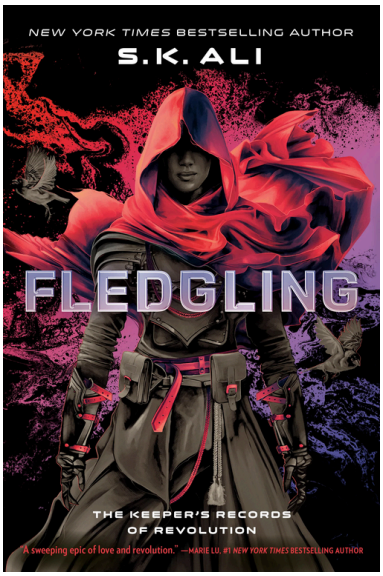


The Bletchley Riddle
Sepetys, Ruta
Historical fiction/Mystery
10-14 years
19-year-old Jakob is working in Bletchley Park, Britain's centre dedicated to cracking the toughest codes. With their mother missing in action, Jakob's sister, 14-year-old Lizzie, is determined to stay in Britain rather than be shipped back "home" to America. Lizzie isn't convinced that her mother is actually dead and the cryptic notes she keeps receiving only reinforce her belief that there is more to her missing mother's story than officials are letting on. Will the siblings be able to figure out what is going on or will the knowledge remain just out of reach?

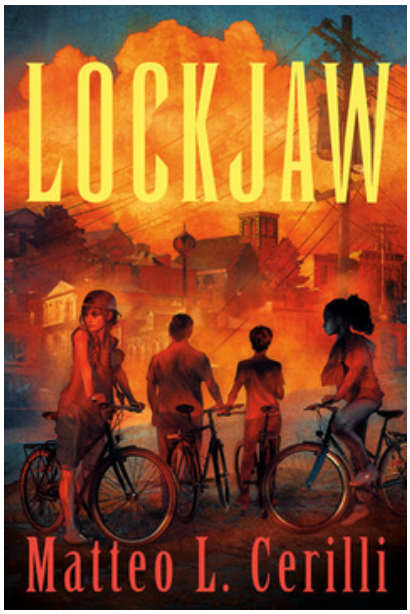


On a Wing and a Tear
Smith, Cynthia Leitich
Animal fiction/Magical realism
9-11 years
Great-Grandfather Bat is eager to travel down to Georgia in order to compete in the Great Ball Game. Last time, Great-Grandfather Bat helped the Animals beat the Birds quite handily! When a tear in his wing means that he can't fly down, Grampa Halfmoon, Mel, and Ray offer to drive him. Along the way, the family and animal friends explore their past, their present, and their relationships with each other and the world. A light-hearted story masterfully crafted.

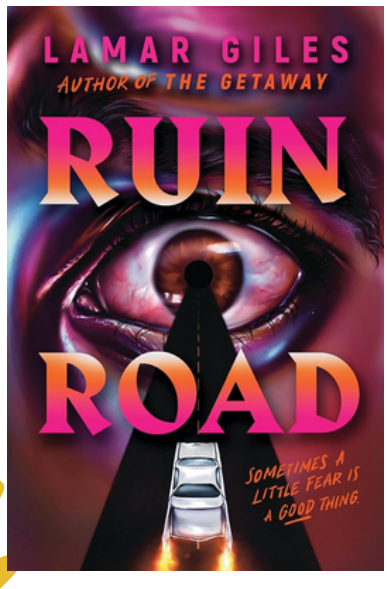
High School



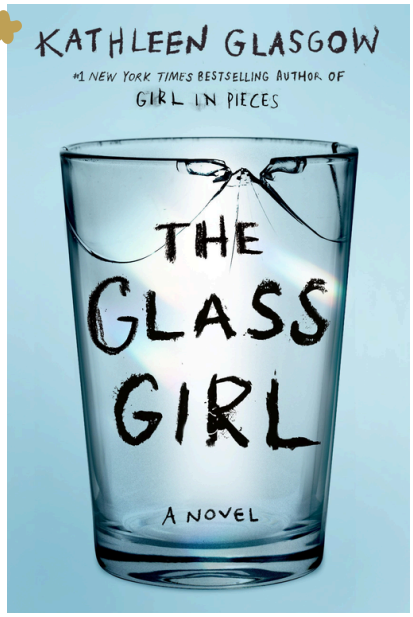
Fledgling
Ali, S.K.
Dystopian/Science fiction
13+ years
Raisa is confident that her marriage to a noble from Lower Earth will bring about peace and prosperity. When she is abducted on the way to her wedding, she realises that her scalplink influences her thinking much more than she believed. Now part of the resistance, she joins a group of individuals who all have a personal stake in this battle of ideology. First in a duology.



Lockjaw
Cerilli, Matteo L.
Horror
14+ years
11-year-old Paz is convinced that there is a monster underground who preys on people in her small town of Bridlington. Residents seem to turn a blind eye, making it clear that it's up to Paz and her gang of fellow outcasts to do something about it. As they investigate, they discover that there is something much more insidious going on in Bridlington. Professional reviewers are split on this one, with a mix of both starred and tepid reviews.



Ruin Road
Giles, Lamar
Thriller/Paranormal
14+ years
Cade is one of the few Black students at his high school. That, combined with being big and tall, leads many to be nervous of him. After a misunderstanding on the bus leads to Cade hiding out in a strange pawnshop, he wishes that people wouldn't be scared around him. His heartfelt wish ends up coming true in the worst possible way and now Cade must race against the clock to keep the world from descending into chaos.



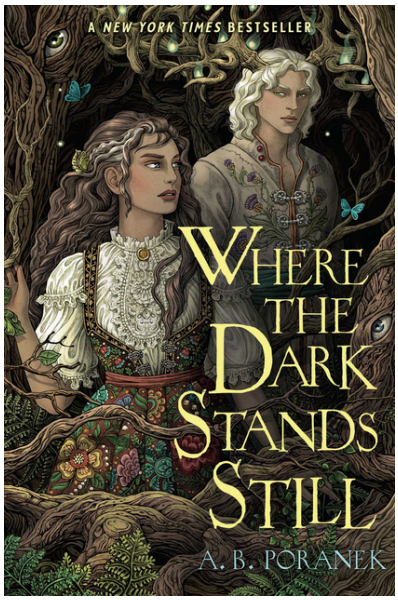
The Glass Girl
Glasgow, Kathleen
Contemporary fiction
14+ years
15-year-old Bella is under constant pressure. Her parents are acrimoniously divorced, she helps to care for her younger sister, and her ex-boyfriend broke up with her because she's just "too much". Alcohol is the only thing that makes existing bearable. After being sent to the hospital with alcohol poisoning, Bella is sent to a recovery camp where she learns new coping skills and faces hard truths. But the most difficult challenge might be returning home.



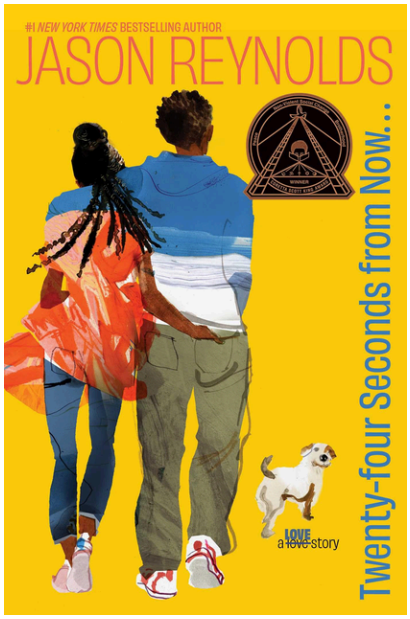
The Color of a Lie
Johnson, Kim
Historical fiction
12+ years
High school senior Calvin is experienced in occasionally passing for white, but when his family moves to a white-only neighbourhood, his father instructs everyone to hide their Black identities. Upon discovering that his new neighbours are ready to go to violent lengths in order to keep their community “pure”, Calvin's discomfort with denying his identity morphs into a determination to do what's right.



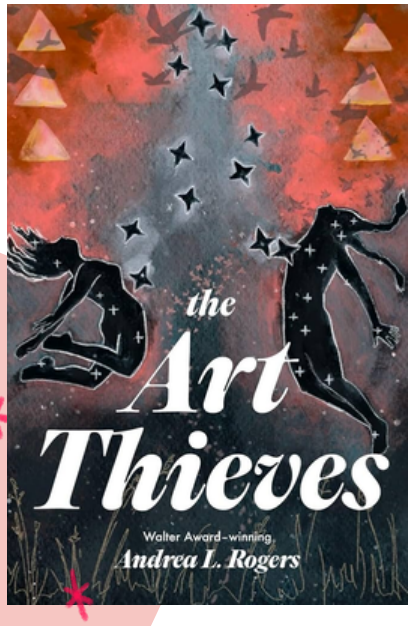
The Worst Perfect Moment
Plozza, Shivaun
Fantasy/Romance
14+ years
16-year-old Tegan has died and now finds herself in the run-down motel where she, her father, and her sister stayed after her mother abandoned the family. Zelda, the angel Tegan finds in reception, insists that this is the place of Tegan's happiest memory. Tegan begs to differ. As Zelda works to convince her that a decrepit hotel really is where she was happiest, the two begin to fall in love. Unfortunately, whatever the result, the two may be doomed to be forever apart.



Where the Dark Stands Still 🍁
Poranek, A.B.
Fantasy/Romance
13+ years
17-year-old Liska is desperate to get rid of her magic. Magic is for monsters and she is no monster. After making an ill-advised deal with the shape-shifting guardian of the Drogheda forest, Liska finds herself serving the guardian in a magical manor. As time passes, she becomes more of an apprentice than a servant and discovers that the guardian is not as monstrous as she first believed. GoodReads reviewers recommend this title for Miyazaki fans, while CM describes it as a read-alike for *Howl's Moving Castle* and *Uprooted*.



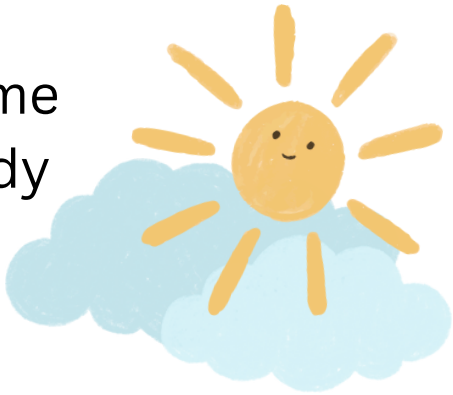
Twenty-four Seconds From Now...
Reynolds, Jason
Contemporary fiction
14+ years
Neon and Aria plan to have sex for the first time and Neon is in the bathroom worrying about opening bra clasps and condom wrappers. Through flashbacks, he thinks about their two-year relationship and reflects on the advice and conversations he's had with friends and family about relationships and sex. Neon's warm, supportive family is a highlight in this modern classic. This relatively short novel pacts a punch.



The Art Thieves
Rogers, Andrea L.
Dystopian/Time travel
13+ years
It's 2052 and, with the erratic weather and scarce resources, it sometimes feels like it's the end of the world. But even if it's the end times, you still need to save for college, which is why Stevie works part-time in a museum. When a new staff member claims that he is from 2201, Stevie scoffs, but when his predictions begin to come true Stevie realises that she needs to prepare for even more chaos to descend.

Features

Summer Reading Club: It's Almost Time to Colour Your Summer! Getting Ready for BC Summer Reading Club 2025 - Georgia Franklin



I cannot believe it's already spring! My first season of Summer Reading Club is flying by and libraries across the province are gearing up to deliver another incredible summer of family fun, helping children build a lifelong love of learning.



1. The BC SRC Staff Website is your source for resources and should be fully ready for summer 2025 by mid-April. The site includes the wonderful Manual created by this year's Content Creators and edited by Kate Wood, our Co-Chairs (Victoria Ellis, and Gen Zichy), and Dr. Tess Prendergast and Nikka Peredo. This invaluable resource includes programming ideas, activity sheets, booklists and more. Please share the Manual with any staff running SRC programs this summer. As with previous years, our Public Website will also have online activities for children, including quizzes, contents, and more.

2. The BCLA Online Forums, specifically the YAACS forum, is a great place to share ideas and to see if any other library systems have SRC materials to spare and share. Anyone can join the BCLA Online Forums, a BCLA membership is not required. For more information, please visit the BCLA website.

3. The Online Reading Tracker will be updated by late May. While most of our participants opt to participate via the print reading record (which we love because it means children are visiting their local library!), it is important to provide and recognize this alternative method for participation. For more information about the Online Tracker, please visit the BC SRC Staff website. If you're new to facilitating SRC and you need staff access to the online tracker, please email bcsrc@bcla.bc.ca.

4. The Participant Feedback Survey is an invaluable tool for learning where the program can grow and improve. The survey will open in the beginning of August and it will remain open until mid September. Keep your eyes peeled for more information on the Participant Feedback Survey as we get closer to the summer.

5. As always, we're better together! Please share your stories throughout the summer. Library staff do such amazing work every summer, making beautiful eye-catching displays, delivering programming and sharing their love of reading. Share your stories through the YAACS Forum, the staff survey, or by sending us an email! I'm so excited to see all the colour!

I am so grateful to Kate Wood for her support during a transition time and together we'd love to share some big shout-outs to the people who made BC SRC 2025 possible! Before we begin, we wanted to send the biggest, most grateful thank you to our former Coordinator, Stephanie Usher. Stephanie guided SRC through Covid, building the online tracker and helping libraries keep connections with children through a challenging summer. She then went on to deliver incredible programs, from celebrating the joy of community in All Together Now, to uncovering the magical mysteries found in the World of Curiosities. Steph was tireless in her effort to build incredible programs, embedding continued learning through thoughtful evaluation and feedback, and approaching all aspects of SRC through the lens of accessibility and inclusion. Most of all, Steph was an absolute joy to work with, treating everyone with respect and kindness, making sure that while the work was done, it was also fun! She helped SRC grow in meaningful ways and has left some very lovely, cool shoes to fill.

As well, we would like to thank our incredible Co-Chair, Gen Zichy and Victoria Ellis, for guiding the program through transition and ensuring that we make this summer one of fun, a love of reading, and colour! Furthermore, we want to send our gratitude and appreciation to the wonderful Content Creators and their library staff who helped create our Manual! Thank you to:

- Kate Adams and the following Richmond Public Library staff members - Hannah Ahn, Ginny Dunnill, Linda Loceff, Haidee O'Brien, Geneviève Valleau, and Claire Vulliamy

- Corene Brown and the team at Port Moody Public Library

- Shelby Deglan and the following Fraser Valley Regional Library staff members - Erin Crowley, Liana Herman, Sarah Jost, Deanna Walker, and David Wiebe

- Mehjabeen Ali and the following Surrey Libraries staff members – Sarah Cryderman, Madeline Ewanyshyn, Leslee Grawthrop, Maggie Kikkert, Heather Matson, Sarah McNeil, Michelle Meech, Joy Sodhi, Amanda Van Fleet

- Kelly Savage and the following Vancouver Public Library staff members - Suzy Arbor, Justin Bermudez, Emily Conacher, Brenna Cullen, Francesca De Freitas, April Ens, Sabrina Gurniak, Dana Ionson, Jenna Lawrence, Alex Loewen, Jodie Lu, Cari Ma, Leila Matte-Kaci, Megan McField, Nicola MacNeil, Tiffany Tse, Jane Whittingham, and Jenny Zhang



Lastly, a special thank you to Dr. Tess Prendergast and Nikka Peredo for their invaluable inclusion review.

We're wishing everyone all the best for this year's SRC and cannot wait to hear all the ways your communities Colour Your Summer!

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!

This Spot's feature "authostrator" is Emily Gravett. Why did I pick this particular author/illustrator? Well her picture book *Monkey and Me* is just so great for storytimes, especially toddler storytime, I thought I would spotlight her wonderful work.



This British artist studied art in Brighton and her final year projects submitted to the Macmillan Prize for Children's Illustration took both first and second prize and launched her career as a children's book creator. First place was for Wolves which then went on to win the 2005 Kate Greenaway Medal (UK equivalent to the ALA's Caldecott Medal). She then went on to win a second Greenaway in 2007 for Little Mouse's Big Book of Fears. She was also shortlisted for this medal for both Orange Pear Apple Bear (a lovely little book for Babytimes) and Monkey and Me. She has created many many great books including the Bear and Hare series for little ones and also illustrates for others.

Her books are whimsical and funny, quite often with a bit of dark humour. She makes excellent use of every page of the book, the end papers, the jacket, the binding, and even the colophon page. Some of her books have flaps, postcards, and even holes right through the back page! The art alone makes her books worth looking at, but many are great for storytime.

“Monkey and me, monkey and me, monkey and me, we went to see...” Great sing-song repetition + animals + not too long, makes this a winner for storytime. The opportunity to guess which animal the little girl is imitating and then do those movements could help to get the wiggles out. Plus there is a funny little surprise at the end that you can point out to the children.

You can then follow this book up with a song involving one of the animals in the book. For example - why not do **If You’re a Monkey and You Know It.** Using a well known song, but changing the words means that everyone can join in right away. This demonstrates to parents and caregivers that they can use a song, but change it to make it new. Verses could be: wave your tail / swing in the trees / munch a banana / scratch your head etc. Sometimes children will even suggest other actions!

There are 4 Bear & Hare books, but I particularly like Where’s Bear? for storytime because of the hide and seek elements. Little ones will be able to relate to the searching and searching, but not finding, and the grown-ups in the room will smile over Bear’s inability to hide effectively. This book would be good as the second story to share as it has very simple text and is not too long.



Then you can have everyone stand up for a classic movement rhyme:

Big bear, big bear, turn around (you can do brown bear, black bear, little bear - whatever strikes your fancy!)

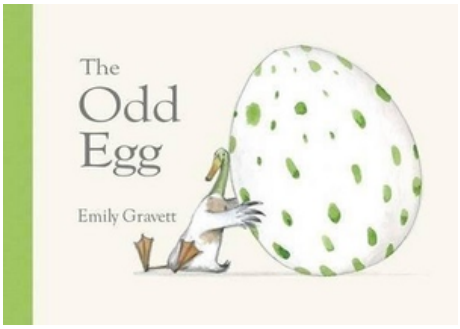
Big bear, big bear, touch the ground
... reach up high
... touch the sky
... wiggle your toes
... touch your nose
... spin around
... sit back down

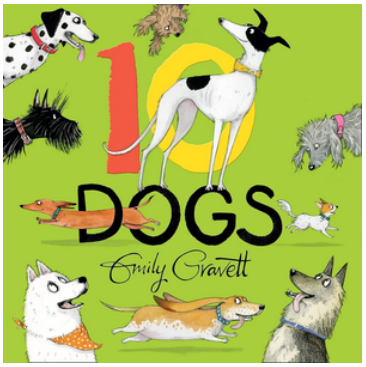


Other Gravett books that would be fun to do in storytime if your library has copies:

- *Odd Egg* - for the dark surprise ending!
- Blue Chameleon - colours, shapes, feelings, and fun!
- *10 Dogs* or *10 Cats* - both have numeracy AND chaos!



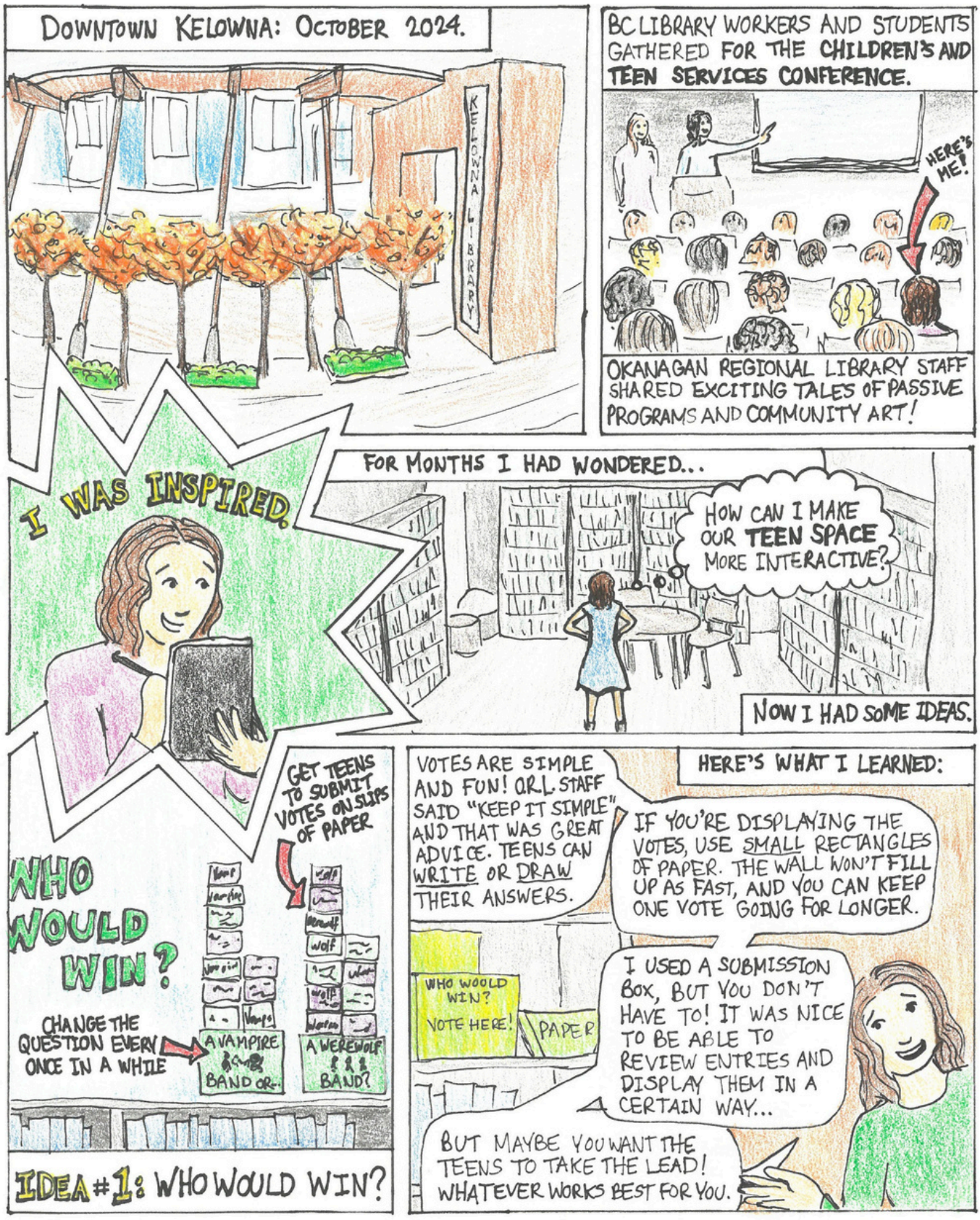




All of Emily Gravett's books are worth exploring, but many of them are too long and the pictures are too detailed for storytimes. However, they make excellent books to recommend to families for sharing together at home - perfect for sitting together, reading, and looking at ALL the details that this amazing authostrator builds into every page.

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

PASSIVE PROGRAMMING for TEENS: A CAT'S TAIL





Rhiannon Wallace is a children's author and Teen Librarian at Burnaby Public Library

Features

Getting Crafty at Studio Mondays - Raoul Fernandes



One of my favourite moments of my work week is when the first kid comes up to a table covered with craft supplies and asks “What are we making today?” I can usually tell right away by their wide eyes and bounce in their step will be game to try anything.

“Studio Mondays” is a weekly arts and crafts after-school program I run at the Champlain Heights branch of the Vancouver Public Library. We have lovely diverse families in this neighbourhood with delightful young patrons that are always keen to play around with art supplies. A few parents usually sit in with their kids to help out and explore their creativity as well. I’ve been running the program for about a year now, and love the chance to share a few successful activities.

My general rule of good craft is:

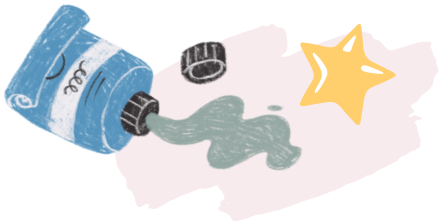
- it is adaptable to a range of ages
- kids can express their own styles and individuality.
- it uses common supplies that you already have or are or easy to get
- It is fun. Fun is really the most important thing! YOU should enjoy making it!

Here are three recent favourites that are simple and have gone over well. They all use basic supplies and don't create much of a mess.

Paper Cup Animation

This is a rather delightful craft that gives a feel of one of those old cartoons or side-scroller video games. All you need is two paper cups. Cut out a window from one cup (let's call this the "outer cup"). Then take the next cup (the "inner cup") and put it inside the outer cup. Make little pencil lines on the inner cup at the top and bottom of the window as you turn the inner cup, creating guidelines. Then take out the inner cup and draw a landscape around the cup within those guidelines. Put the inner cup back into the outer cup. Next you can tape a cut-out figure of your choice to the outer cup and watch as it moves through the landscape!





Kids enjoyed this one quite a bit, and had fun ideas for it: a fish in an underwater scene, a bee in a garden, a cat in a forest. It's quite satisfying to see the figure in action once it all comes together. Tip: cut out the windows in advance with an exacto blade to make it easier and safer for the kids.

Surprise Folds

How did I not know about these when I was a kid? They are so simple to make and so silly and fun. I sometimes see kids randomly making them in my program after they've completed the main craft. I think you can get a good sense of how they're done from the picture, but if not, google "surprise folds" on YouTube. They are the most fun when it's something innocent (like a cupcake) that open's into something terrifying (a cupcake with giant sharp teeth!)







Make your own Elephant and Piggie comics



Ok, you've seen kids tear through these books, and you've probably frequently discarding a bunch that kids have torn through a little too enthusiastically. Next time you're weeding these, set the discards aside for collage material (if your library allows that sort of thing). I roughly cut out a number of the individual elephants and piggies from discarded books for this activity. Once I had a bunch, I just set them out with a bunch of empty talk-bubble templates and let the kids go wild and make their own one or two panel comics. I also threw in some old calendars for their backgrounds, but they could make their own backgrounds easily enough.

I'll leave you with one last important tip for all of these: make a demo of the craft beforehand! It will help you think through any tricky steps and consider any fun variations. Keep in mind that whatever demo you make, a number of kids will want to make one exactly like yours. I haven't figured out how to avoid it so I just roll with it and gently encourage them to think of new ideas before they start.

Good luck if you try any of these! Feel free to contact me for any questions or just to send cool pictures of what the kids in your program made!

Raoul Fernandes
raoul.fernandes@vpl.ca

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.

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, 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 **May 28** and **June 25.** Links to meetings will be shared on the *YAACS forum,* and everyone is welcome!