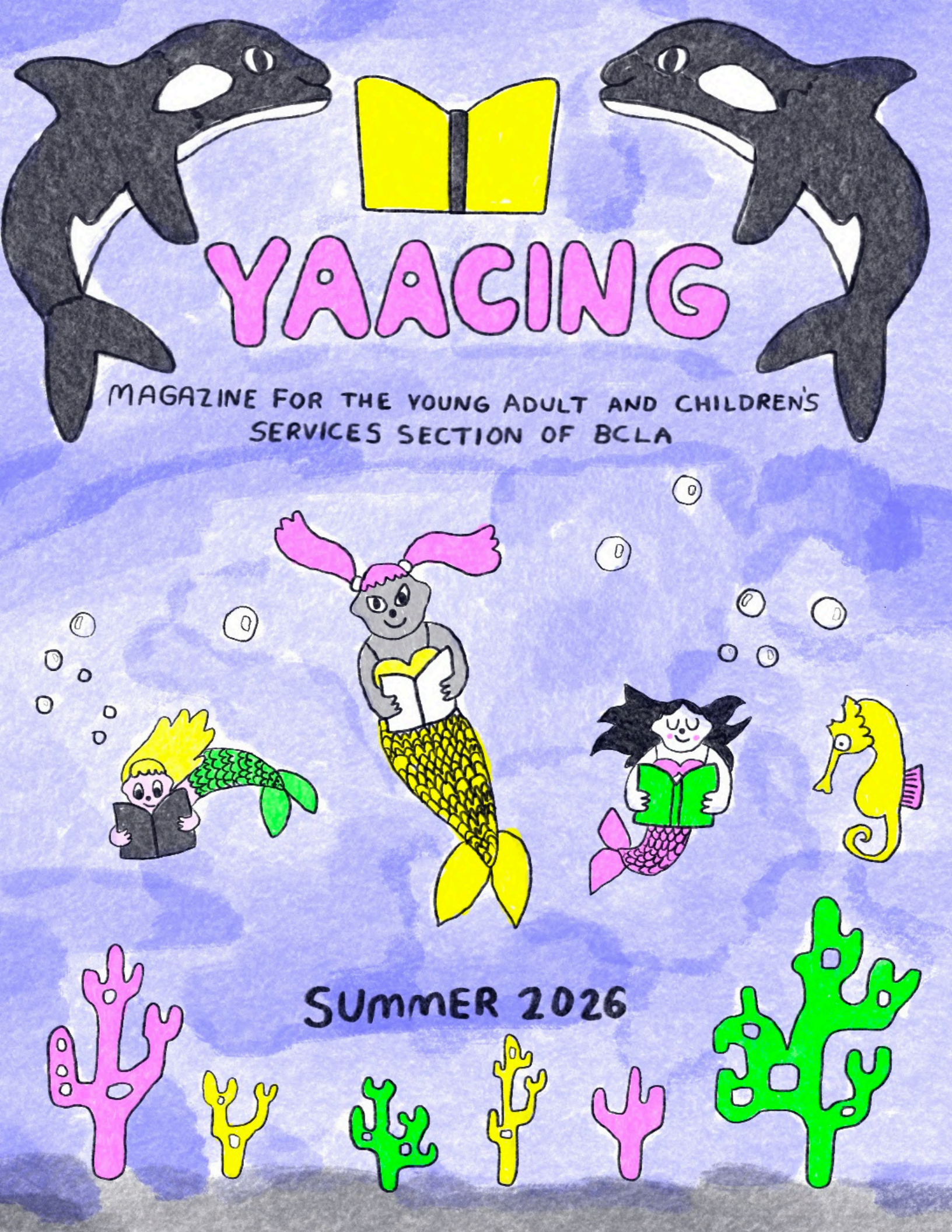

YAACING
MAGAZINE FOR THE YOUNG ADULT AND CHILDREN'S SERVICES SECTION OF BCLA
SUMMER 2026



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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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? 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 YAACING Readers,

Welcome to Summer Reading Club season!! I cannot wait to read about what programs you are creating and how you are transforming your libraries into seascapes. The creativity behind each library's SRC never ceases to amaze me! Join us on June 24th from 12:00-1:00pm to share whatever ideas you have percolating. (Link incoming on the YAACS Forum)

I would also like to introduce our new YAACING Editor Kaley Young! Kaley is an experienced Children's librarian and longtime contributor to both YAACING and YAACS meetings. We are extremely lucky to have her on board!

Emily

Letters

Letter from Kaley Young, YAACING Editor

Howdy!

I'm so excited to start my journey as YAACING's newest editor! YAACING has been a source of inspiration since I started my Children's Librarian position some moons ago.

I'm a naturally curious (nosey) soul and am constantly exploring the program calendars of libraries near and far. I couldn't think of a more fun way to keep in-the-know of the exciting things happening across lovely library-land.

Please help me discover the awesome things you are creating, exploring, and dreaming up by submitting your ideas! (See our Call for Submission page at the end of this issue.)

P.S.
I'll certainly be in touch with you later about how your Summer programs went. ;)

Columns

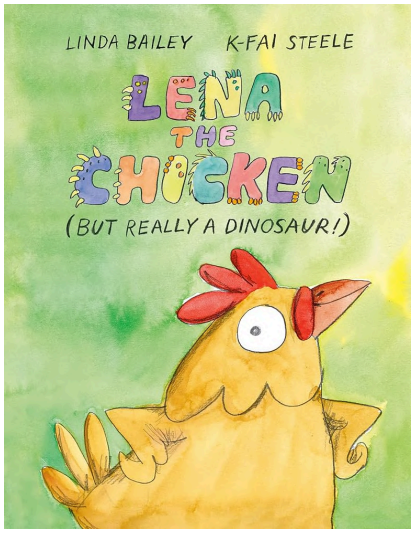
New and Noteworthy Books - Sadie Tucker



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

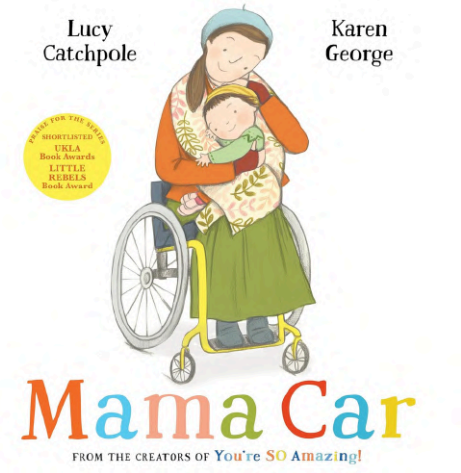
Sadie Tucker is a children's librarian with the Vancouver Public Library. Special thanks to Francesca de Freitas and Duncan Olenick for their help with annotations.

🍁 The author and/or illustrator is Canadian.
🌿 The author and/or illustrator is Indigenous.

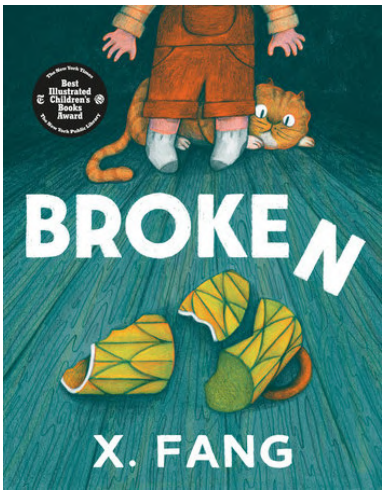


Picture Books – Babies & Preschoolers

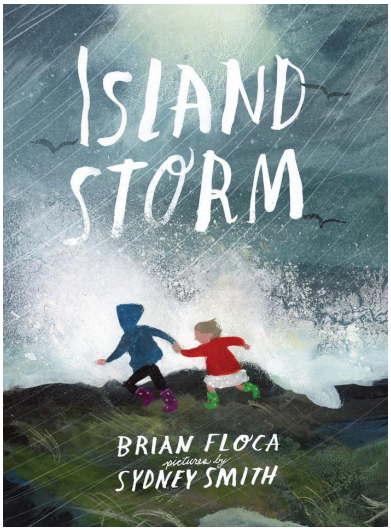
Lena the Chicken (but Really a Dinosaur!) 🍁
Bailey, Linda
3-7 years
Lena might look like a chicken, but she knows that she is a dinosaur. When a weasel sets its sights on the hen house, Lena knows that she must unleash her inner beast. A cute story with informational back matter. If you're good at sound effects you could get away with telling this as an oral story.



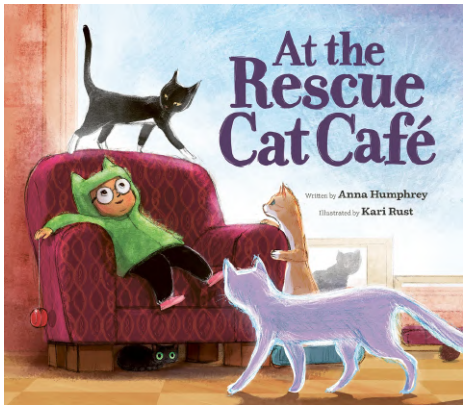
Mama Car
Catchpole, Lucy
3-6 years
A child talks about her everyday life with "Mama car" - her mother's wheelchair. From kitchen expeditions to park outings, Mama Car is always there providing a cozy lap. A book brimming with love.



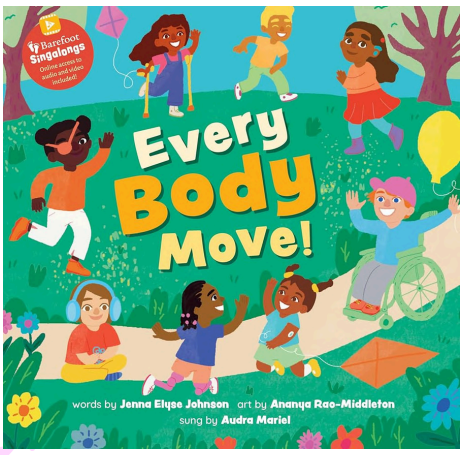
Broken
Fang, X.
3-7 years
When Mei Mei decides to startle her Ama's cat, a mug is broken. She is relieved when Ama blames the cat, but she soon becomes overwhelmed with guilt. Will she snap under the strain? A light-hearted take on moral conundrums.



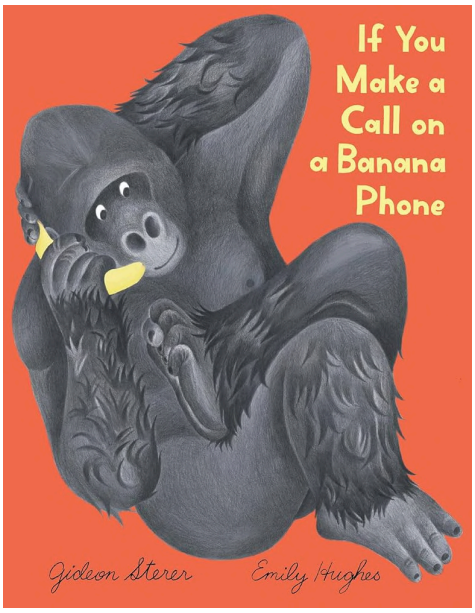
Island Storm
Floca, Brian
3-8 years
Siblings head out before a storm. As they walk, the signs of a storm grow. Each time that the children hesitate and wonder whether they should turn back, they pull on each others' hands and bravely continue on. What will they do when the thunder starts booming?



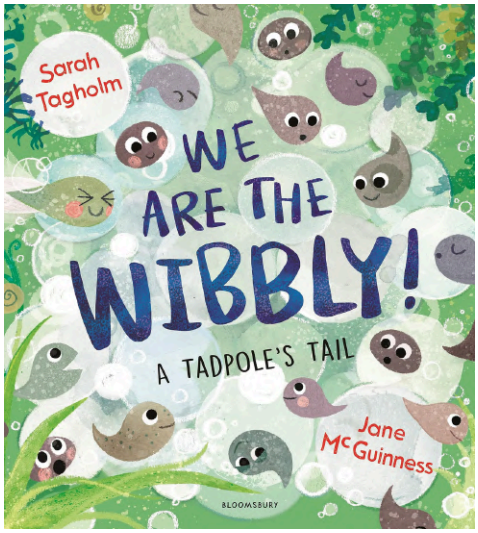
At the Rescue Cat Café
Humphrey, Anna
3-7 years
The Rescue Cat Café has plenty of kitties and, over the span of the week, many of them find their perfect humans. As the days pass, a child quietly observes the joyous adoptions. By Friday, they know exactly who they want to take home.



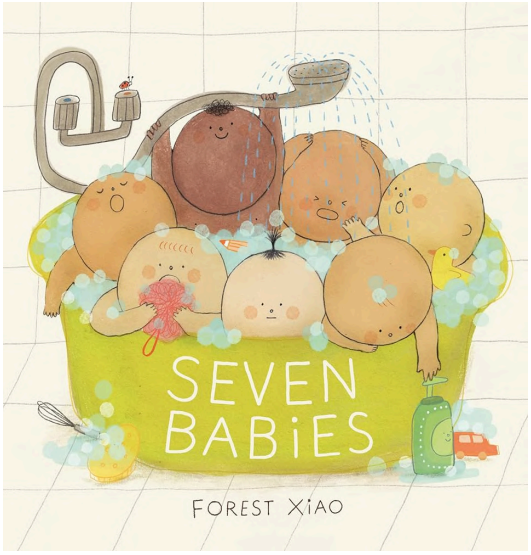
Every Body Move!
Johnson, Jenna Elyse
3-6 years
In this rhythmic and energetic celebration of movement, mobility aids aren't just included - they are featured. This book joyfully shares the many ways that people move their bodies. Practice the text aloud before storytime or you might get your tongue twisted.



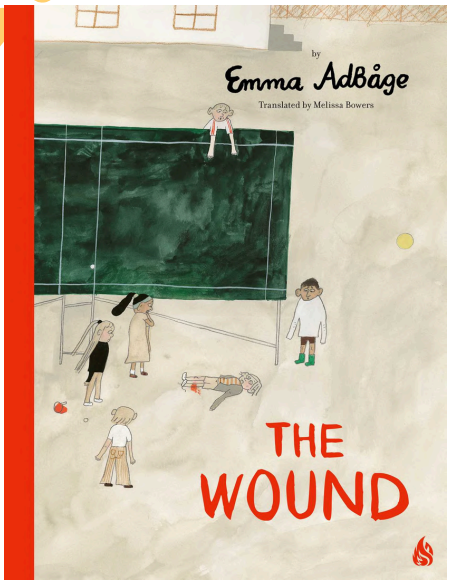
If You Make a Call on a Banana Phone
Sterer, Gideon
3-7 years
If you make a call with a banana phone a gorilla might answer! Your family probably won't believe you; regardless, you should make your home ready for visitors. A book about imagination and friendship, with charming pencil illustrations.

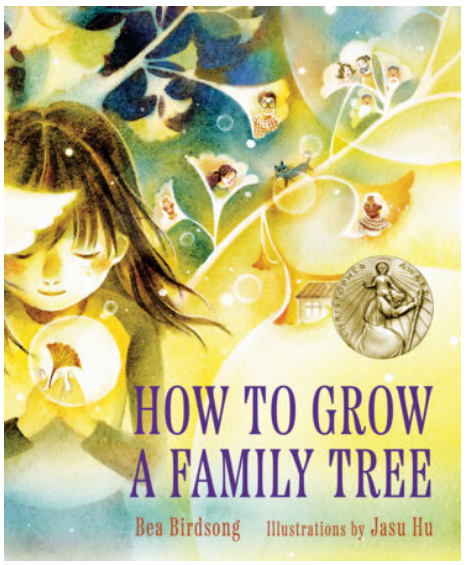


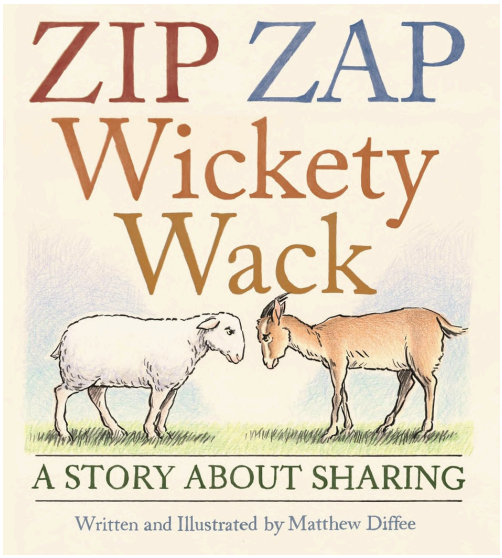
We Are the Wibbly! A Tadpole's Tale
Tagholm, Sarah
3-8 years
Follow along as a tadpole leaves its egg and embarks on the biggest journey of all: Growing up. As their body changes and they struggle to keep up with their fellows, the tadpole experiences big emotions. Young readers will enjoy the fast-paced story and older readers will be entertained by the protagonist's babyish speech pattern.



Seven Babies
Xiao, Forest
2-6 years
A group of babies deliver themselves to a couple's home to visit for the day. From visiting with the couple's friends to going to the playground, the babies have fun before heading to their next destination. Attentive readers will notice that each baby has a signature facial expression or action. A quirky storytime read.





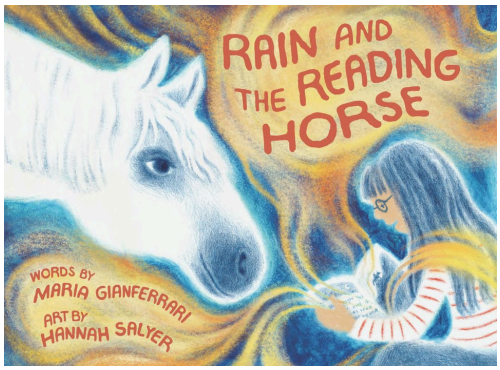


Picture Books – Big(ger) Kids

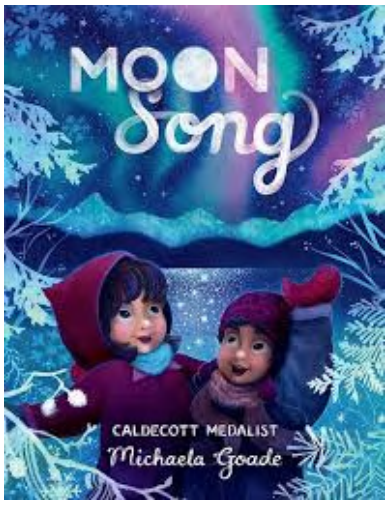
The Wound
AdBåge, Emma
4-8 years
After falling off a ping pong table, a child gets a gash on their knee - drawing the attention of schoolmates, teachers, and pigeons alike. This true-to-life recounting of an impressive injury will have readers young and old chuckling,

How to Grow a Family Tree
Birdsong, Bea
5-9 years
Emmy Lou is worried about her family tree assignment, because the only family she knows is Mama. Soon, she realises that a family tree can be grown and she already has one in her community. An important story told with care, accompanied by lovely illustrations.

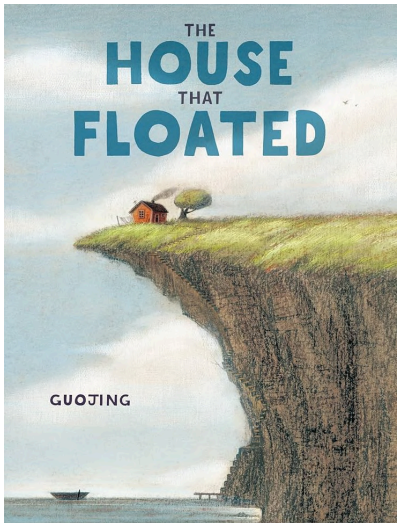
Zip Zap Wickety Wack: A Story About Sharing
Diffee, Matthew
4-8 years
What starts out as a standard recitation of animal sounds takes a turn for the absurd. When the sheep and the goat discover that they make the same sound ("baa"), a heated discussion ensues. The pastural illustrations contrast fabulously with the increasingly bizarre narrative. The illustrations are suitable for group read alouds, but you will need to brush up on your character voices.



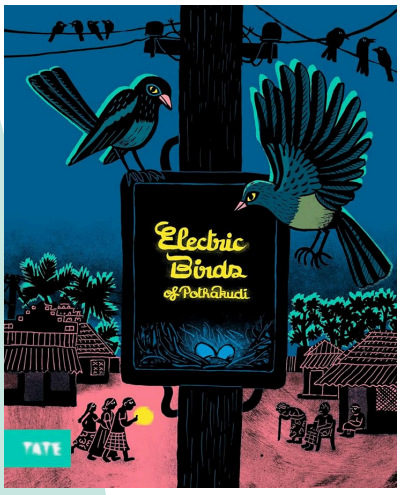
Rain and the Reading Horse
Gianferrari, Maria
5-8 years
Rain's first visit to "Giddy-Up and Read" doesn't end with her reading to her horse, Snow - the words get stuck in her throat. Instead, she helps muck Snow's stall. Over subsequent visits, Rain struggles but eventually succeeds in reading aloud. A gentle tribute to working towards your goal, even if it's scary.



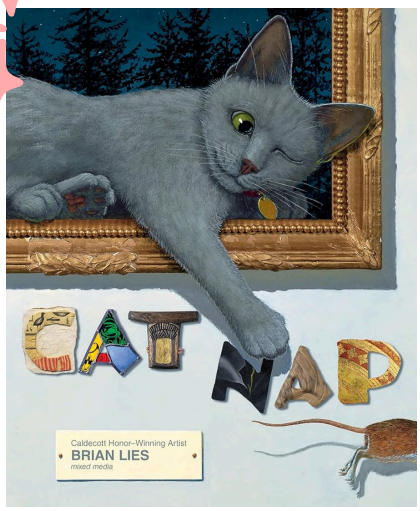
Moon Song
Goade, Michaela
5-9 years
After a day of fishing and family, a girl and her cousin are getting ready to sleep. To reassure her cousin who is afraid of the dark, the girl recounts a night-time exploration that features the beauty of winter. A great book for a language arts unit.



The House That Floated
Guojing
4-8 years
In this wordless picture book, a couple live on a cliff over the sea and enjoy taking their boat onto the water. As the years pass, they have a baby who grows into a child. When a big storm occurs, they must move their house across the ocean. A gentle story about family, the history of place, and moving homes.



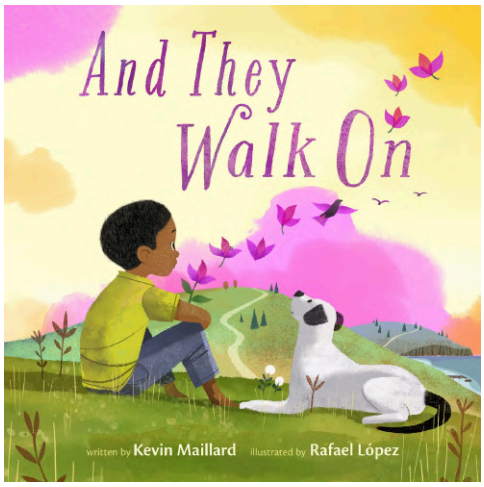
Electric Birds of Pothakudi
Karthika, Nair
6-10 years
Inspired by true events, this story recounts how the village of Pothakudi came together to protect a pair of nesting birds. With care and creativity, neighbours support each other and become protectors of a little bird family. Told with the air of a fairytale and accompanied by lavish block print art.



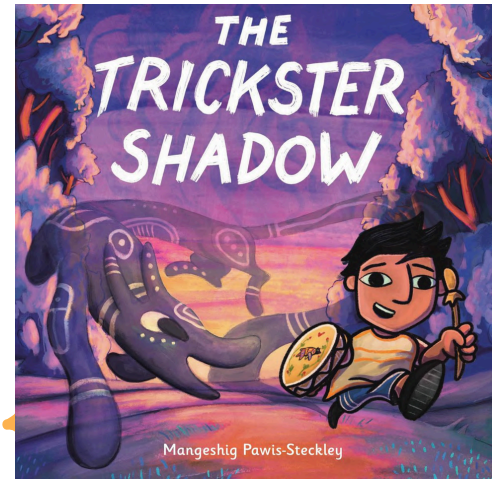
Cat Nap
Lies, Brian
4-8 years
A cat's nap is interrupted by a mouse. Chasing it through a poster for the Metropolitan Museum of Art, the feline ventures through a variety of paintings and sculptures in pursuit of its prey – its appearance changing with each work. A creative book that will find a home both on personal bookshelves and in classrooms.



Popo the Xolo
Lopez, Paloma Angelina
5-9 years
After falling asleep, Nana and her loyal dog, Popo. embark on a difficult journey through the nine levels of Mictlān. At the end, Nana sees her living family one last time and reassures Popo that they will take care of him.



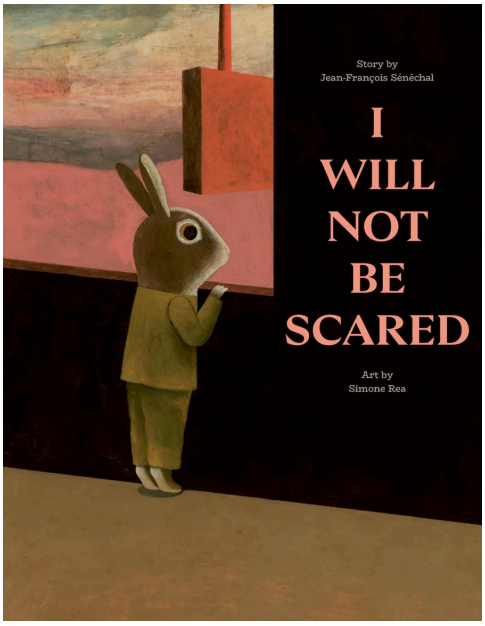
And They Walk On 🌿
Maillard, Kevin Noble
5-9 years
A child wonders where someone goes when they "walk on". The narrator soon realises that their loved one remains through memory and tradition. There is both an author and illustrator afterword.



The Trickster Shadow 🌿
Pawis-Steckley, Joshua Mangeshig
5-10 years
Zoon's shadow keeps geting him into trouble. When he asks his Nookomis for help, she gifts him a drum and instructs him to use it when he needs help guiding his heart. The story is straight-forward enough that young children will enjoy it. Older readers will be able to dig into the deeper meaning.



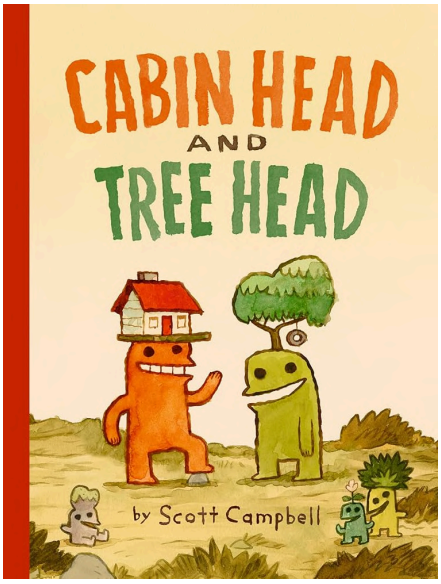
The Witch in the Tower
Sardà, Júlia
6-10 years
Carmela's older sister, Franca, no longer wants to hang out with her. To leave her sadness behind, Carmela goes for a long walk and encounters a tower. At the door, she is greeted by a witch who shares her ways. A celebration of individuality, community, and witches.



I Will Not Be Scared
Sénéchal, Jean-François
5-10 years
When a young bunny sees something upsetting, it reminds them of horrible things they saw in their war-torn country. They are hesitant to talk about it, but their supportive adult gives them the space to open up. An important book that should be shared with a prepared adult due to the depiction of violence.

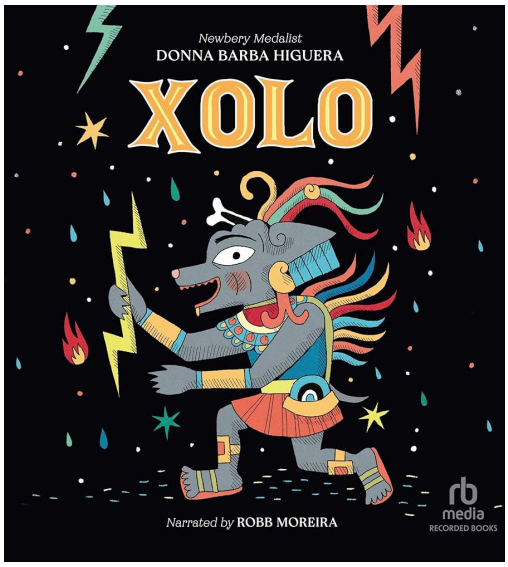


Here Come the Aunties!
Smith, Cynthia Leitich
4-7 years
River has lots of aunties! From his teacher to neighbours to family friends, River talks about the various aunties in his life and how they support him and his family. A sweet ode to community and a glimpse into life on River's reservation.



School Age Fiction – Primary

Cabin Head and Tree Head
Campbell, Scott
5-8 years
Graphic novel/Humour
Cabin Head and Tree Head are best friends. They are very different but also very devoted. Join them as they partake in silly adventures and everyday challenges in a world where everyone has... something... on their head. Weird and wonderful.

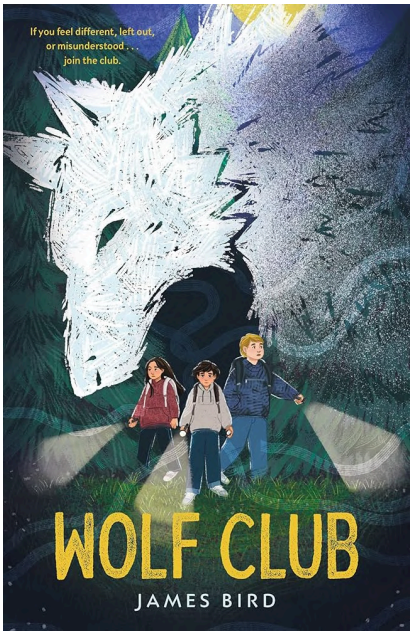


Xolo: How One Good Dog Saved Humankind
Higuera, Donna Barba
7-10 years
Graphic novel/Mythology
Xolotl doesn't get a lot of airtime in Aztec mythology. Fame is largely reserved for his brother, Quetzalcoatl. This reimagined story is narrated by Xolo himself, a dog-like deity who yearns for his brother's appreciation. After a moment of cowardice leaves him shunned by the other gods, Xolo must find the courage to help save humanity.

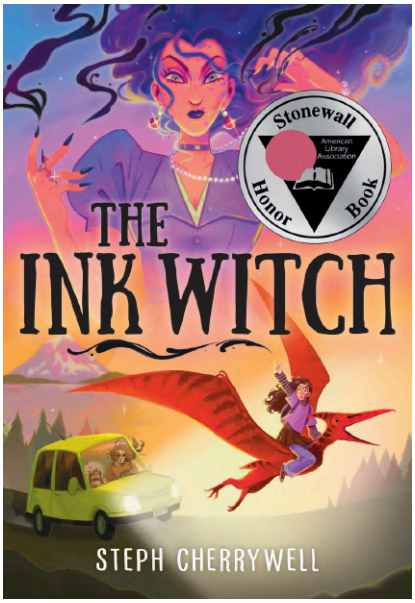


Sweet Magic
LaReau, Kara
6-8 years
Fantasy/Cozy
Blue works with Mama Moon at their bakery. While doing deliveries, Blue sees opportunities to practice their burgeoning magic skills by helping various community members. Unfortunately, their plans often don't go as planned. Cozy and sweet, each chapter is its own short story.

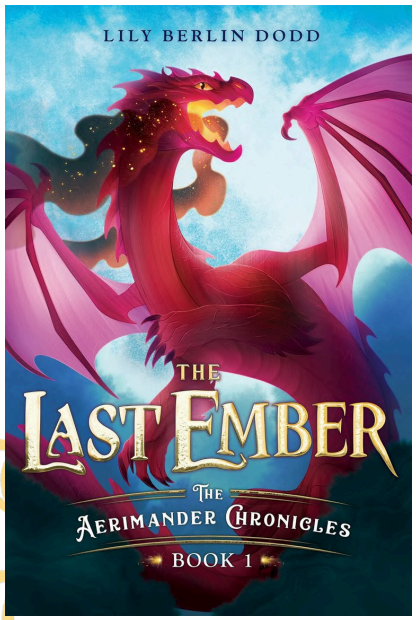
School Age Fiction – Intermediate



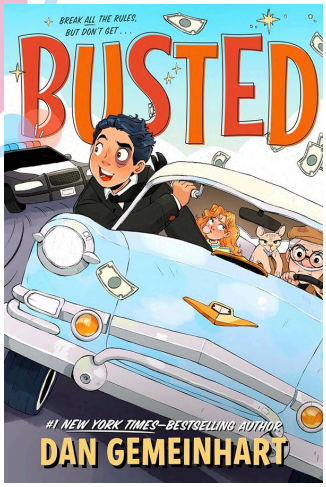
Wolf Club
Bird, James
9-12 years
Contemprary/Magical realism
13-year-old Okan is not confident that he is right for the job when his grandmother tells him to trek into the woods to protect a white wolf. He is even more doubtful about his companions: The stinky girl and Okan's bully. As the unlikely companions embark on their journey, they discover each other's hidden depths and personal challenges.



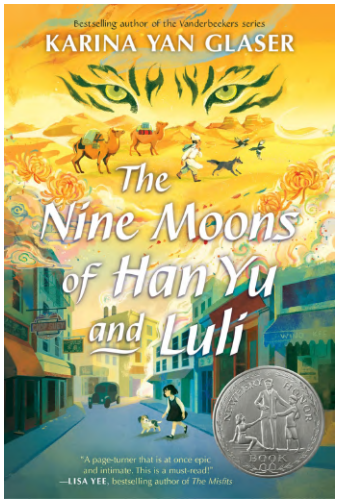
The Ink Witch
Cherrywell, Steph
9-12 years
Fantasy/Humour
Becca, who is trans, yearns for adventure and feels stifled working in her mother's hotel. Then an aunt she didn't know existed appears and bespells her mother into signing a mysterious document. Now Becca must team up with her mother's tarantula familiar and the troll that lives in the ice machine to save her mom.



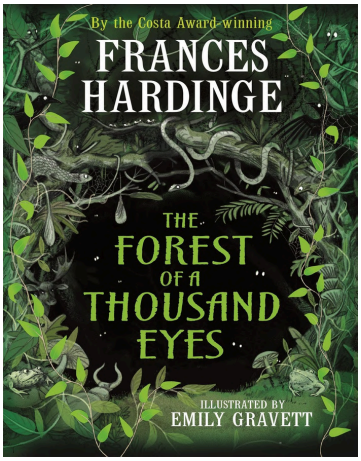
The Last Ember
Dodd, Lily Berlin
9-12 years
Fantasy/Adventure
Two unlikely allies are on the run, desperate to keep a dragon egg out of the wrong hands. This first entry in a new series has garnered lots of praise for its humour, depiction of power, and fulsome world-building.



Busted
Gemeinhart, Dan
8-12 years
Adventure/Humour
12-year-old Oscar has lived in a retirement home for as long as he can remember. When he accepts a dubious offer from a new resident with connections to the mob, Oscar ends up on a wild road trip and learns that you don't need to follow the rules to be good.



The Nine Moons of Han Yu and Luli
Glaser, Karina Yan
9-12 years
Historical/Adventure
Han Yu and Luli are separated by 1200 years and thousands of kilometres, but both their stories echo with adventure and the love for family. *Kirkus Reviews* calls the novel "a vibrant love letter to Chinese culture, food, history, poetry, and art."



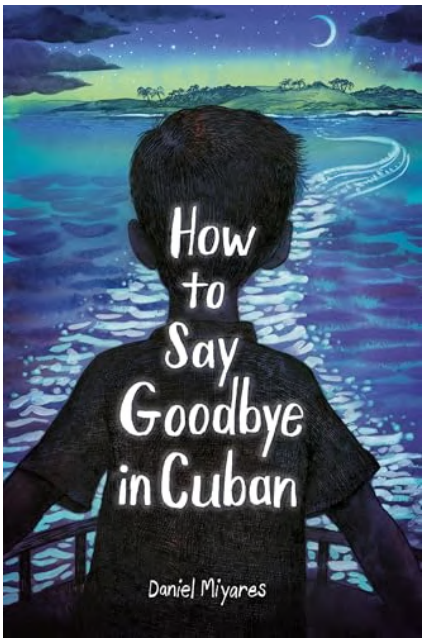
The Forest of a Thousand Eyes
Hardinge, Frances
9-12 years
Illustrated fiction/Dystopian/Adventure
Feather lives in one of the last communities still standing, everything else having been eaten up by the Forest. When Feather falls for the lies of a stranger, her community's only spyglass is taken. To get it back, Feather ventures beyond the wall and into the Forest.



Confessions from the Group Chat
Meadows, Jodi
10-13 years
Contemporary/Romance
When 8th-grader Virginia's mean texts are shared with the world, she finds herself without friends. Her only support is an anonymous classmate that she texts with and her older sister. Can Virginia make amends? How can she become an authentic, kinder version of herself?



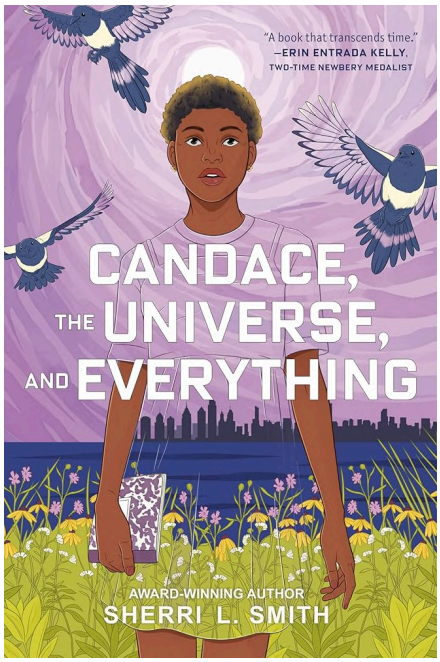
Kindred Dragons
Mensinga, Sarah
9-12 years
Graphic novel/Fantasy/Historical
In this reimagining of *Anne of Green Gables*, Alice has been left to live with her grandmother in rural PEI. When she encounters an old dragon who is missing his human, Alice commits to helping him. Along the way, Alice discovers that she has an ability that could help dragons everywhere. First in a series.



How to Say Goodbye in Cuban
Miyares, Daniel
9-12 years
Graphic novel/Historical
Having just moved to the city, 12-year-old is already having a difficult time adjusting .Then the Cuban revolution arrives at his doorstep. Things become horrifically worse when Carlos' father disappears and neighbours begin to turn on, and report, each other.



Alyte
Moreau, Jérémie
9+ years
Graphic novel/Animal fiction
Alyte, a young midwife frog, discovers that life holds tragedy, friendship, and hope. As he loses friends to the many dangers around them, Alyte ponders nature, life, and the disruptions that humans cause. *Forward Reviews* says, "throughout the book, death illuminates the interconnections of different species and the wonders of life and survival."

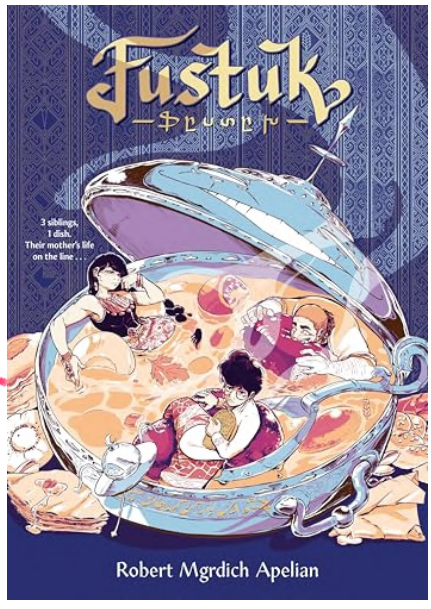


Candace, the Universe, and Everything
Smith, Sherri L.
10-13 years
Science fiction/Speculative fiction
13-year-od Candace is startled when a bird flies out of her locker. She is further perplexed when a purple notebook appears. The notebook leads her to Tracey, who used Candace's... 40 years ago. Joined by a physicist who used the locker in 1948, Candace and Tracey investigate the limits of physics and the existence of wormholes.

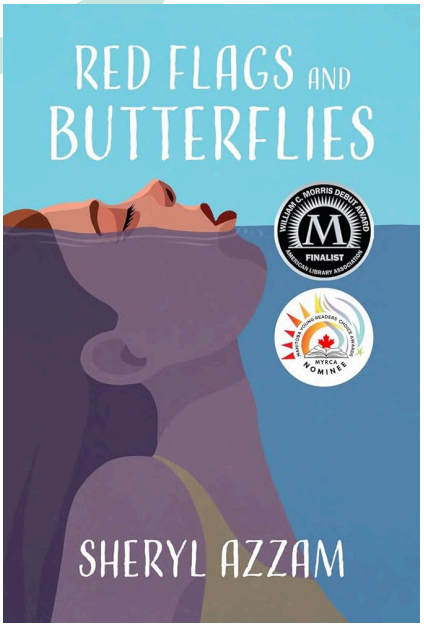


Scarlet Morning
Stevenson, ND
9-13 years
Illustrated fiction/Fantasy/Adventure
Viola and Wilmur have grown up in a world devastated by Scarlet Morning, a pirate who killed the Queen and released poison on the world. When the two leave their small town with a swashbuckling pirate, they find adventure, mystery, and wonder the likes of which they never imagined. First in a series.

High School



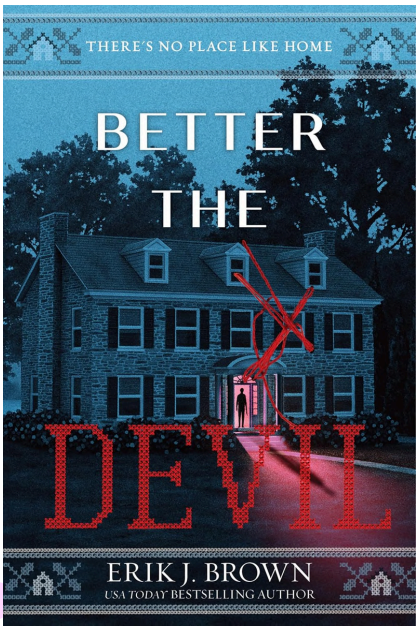
Fustuk
Apelian, Robert Mgrdich
13+ years
Graphic novel/Fantasy
17-year-old Katah has never fit in with his food-obsessed family. When his mother falls ill, Katah discovers a magical creature called a div that holds the key to his mother's recovery. In exchange, Katah and his siblings must feed the div a dish that rivals anything their father, a famous chef, ever created.



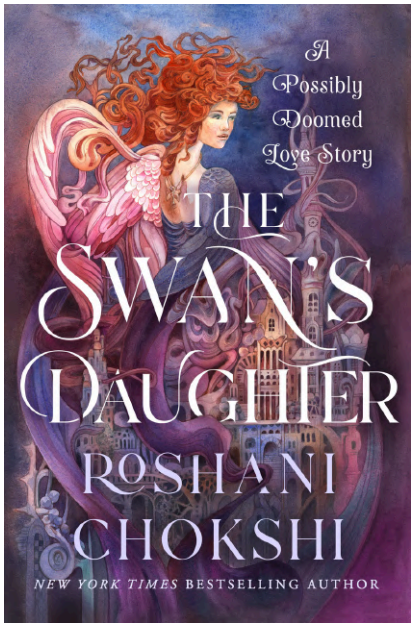
Red Flags and Butterflies
Azzam, Sheryl
12-16 years
Contemporary
15-year-old Lexie has her sights set on a prestigious art school. Everyone is supportive of her application except for her father. Her father is persuasive and charming, but also demanding, keeping Lexie off-balance. As she struggles to balance the demands on her time, she reaches a breaking point. An afterword discusses emotional abuse and provides resources.



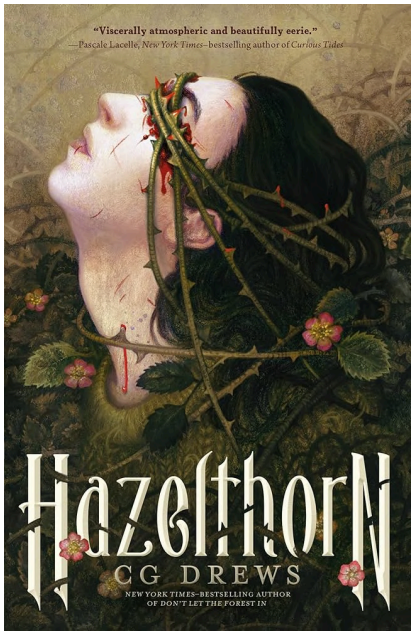
Beth is Dead
Bernet, Katie
12+ years
Retelling/Mystery
A suspenseful retelling of Little Women. Beth has been murdered and her sisters are determined to find her killer. As their investigation progresses, they realise that the killer could well be someone in the family. Everyone has a motivation, but who actually did it?



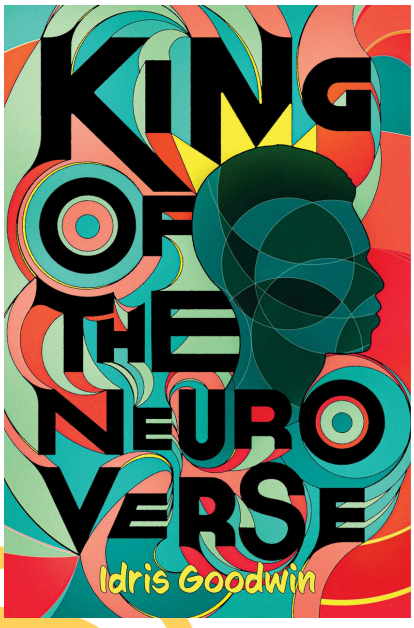
Better the Devil
Brown, Erik J.
13+ years
Thriller/Mystery
When a 16-year-old runaway is caught by the police, impersonating a child that went missing years ago seems like the only way to avoid being sent back to his homophobic family. Nate's mother is overjoyed to have her son returned after so long, but other family members aren't so happy. What seems idyllic soon becomes treacherous as evidence mounts that Nate didn't just disappear - he was murdered.



The Swan's Daughter: A Possibly Doomed Love Story
Chokshi, Roshani
14+ years
Fantasy/Romance
Arris expects to be murdered on his wedding day - by his bride. To rule the kingdom, you need the hand and the heart of the royal heir – disembodied will do. To escape that fate, Arris must find a bride who honestly cares about him. Demelza is a veritas swan. Someone whose unpleasant song brings forth the truth but who cedes their power when they fall in love. Working together, Arris and Demelza see a way to preserve both of their lives; but will they be able to resist the inevitable romantic pull between them?



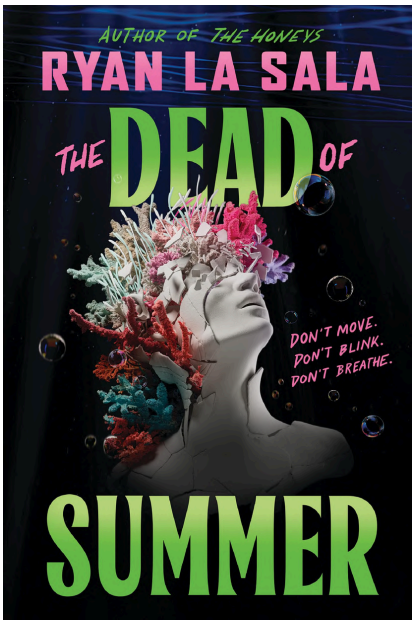
Hazelthorn
Drews, CG
13+ years
Mystery/Romance/Gothic
17-year-old Evander has been kept to his room for the last seven years, ever since his guardian's grandson, Laurie, tried to kill him. Now his guardian is dead and relatives have descended upon the estate. As the hungry gardens attempt to devour Evander and the rest of the grounds, he turns to Laurie in the hopes of uncovering the secrets that surround them.



King of the Neuro Verse
Goodwin, Idris
13+ years
Verse novel/Historical
Pernell is in his senior year and attending summer school - again. He knows that he might not graduate, but all he really wants to do is dominate at the lunchroom rap circle. Pernell must learn to harness the gifts of his neurodiversity and take advantage of the supports that his eventual ADHD diagnosis will provide.



Wild Song
Gourlay, Candy
13+ years
Historical
16-year-old Luki is a skilled hunter in her community, but she is still expected to marry and take up traditional feminine duties. When an American offers to transport her and others from the Philippines to St. Louis for the World Fair, Luki sees a way to escape her fate. But the United States is nothing like she thought it would be.



The Dead of Summer
La Sala, Ryan
13+ years
Horror
Ollie is back on Anchor's Mercy after a year away helping his mom with her cancer treatment. No sooner is he back then a fierce storm hits the island and suddenly residents are drowning on land and coming back as smiling zombies. Now Ollie and his friends must figure out what is going on before the military takes matters into their own hands.



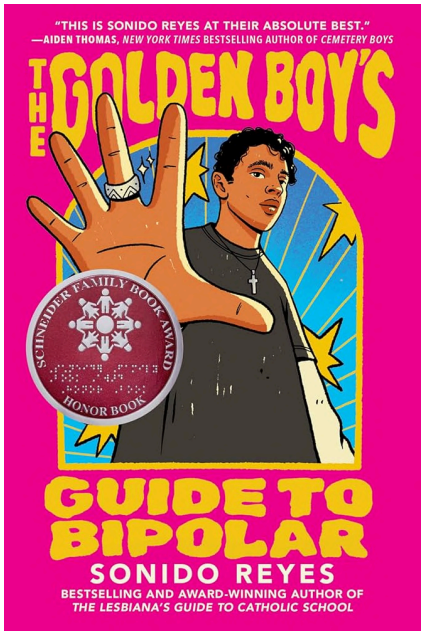
The Leaving Room
McBride, Amber
13+ years
Verse novel/Literary/Fantasy/Romance
17-year-old Gospel doesn't know how long she has been a Keeper; all she knows is that she is in charge of her Leaving Room - a space where the souls of recently deceased children arrive before they pass on. When another keeper appears, Gospel is surprised to discover that she can experience romantic love and begins to wonder if there is life, actual life, beyond her room.



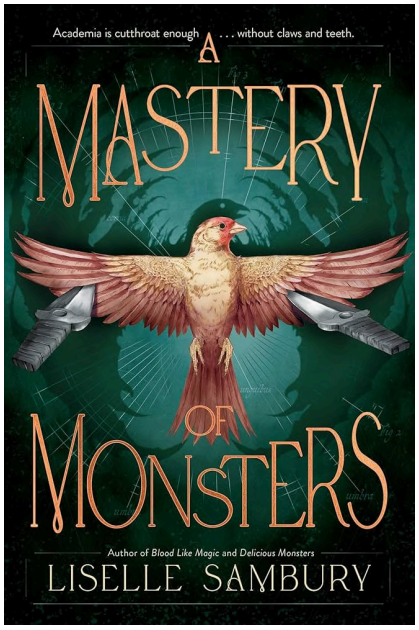
Angelica and the Bear Prince
Nguyen, Trung Le
12+ years
Graphic novel/Contemporary/Romance
Last year, 17-year-old Jelly crashed and burned. During this dark time, Jelly developed a deep friendship with her local theatre's mascot over social media. Now Jelly is interning at the theatre and wants to know who is inside the mascot. Could their connection in real-life be as strong as it was online?



According to Plan
Randall, Christen
14+ years
Contemporary/Romance
When the funding for their literary magazine is cancelled two teens with very different forms of ADHD team up to create a boundary-pushing zine. Their differences cause sparks – romantic and otherwise.



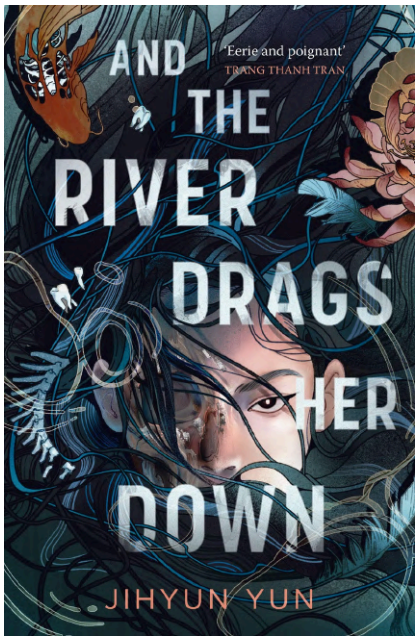
The Golden Boy's Guide to Bipolar
Reyes, Sonora
14+ years
Contemporary/Coming of age
17-year-old Cesar has a come a long way in the past year: He has managed to get his bipolar under control thanks to therapy and medication and has worked through many of his complicated feelings and guilt around being gay. After a regress, can Cesar find a way back to himself and make peace with his inner demons?



A Mastery of Monsters
Sambury, Leslie
14+ years
Dark academia/Horror/Romance
17-year-old August is desperate to find her brother. Virgil is constantly fighting his monstrous nature and fears that he will be hunted by the very organisation of which he is a member. August and Virgil make a pact: August will help Virgil control his monster and Virgil will help August uncover what happened to her brother. First in a series, rumoured to be bloody.



Self Portrait
Volbeda, Ludwig
13+ years
Epistolary/Contemporary
Jip is sitting in the attic, struggling with an art assignment. Through a series of letters that will never be sent, Jip reflects on their identity, life, and relationships. A thoughtful, messy, and, above all, honest depiction of adolescence.



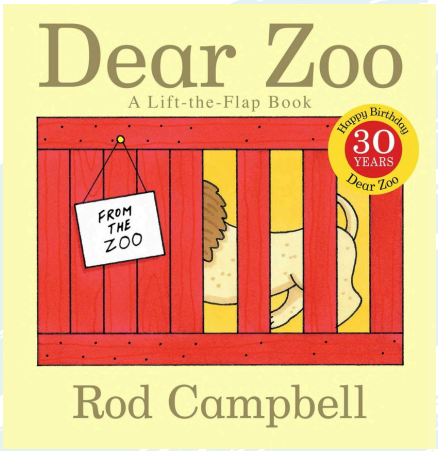
And the River Drags Her Down
Yun, Jihyun
14+ years
Horror/Mystery
17-year-old Soojin is devastated when her sister, Mirae, dies by drowning. Soojin decides to ignore her mother's old warnings about raising the human dead and brings her sister back to life. Joy and relief are slowly taken over by fear and suspicion, however, as evidence mounts that Mirae has not come back unchanged.

Columns

I'll Link to That! - Lindsey Krabbenhoft

Puppet Magic

The magic of puppets never fails to amaze me. The way they can draw a restless or noisy crowd back together. The way a shy child comes out of their shell when they see a recognizable animal. The way a child's vocabulary develops as their caregiver takes the time to point out the puppet and its features. Puppets are the best. If you're nervous to try them out, here are some fun ideas that you can practice ahead of time. I promise it's worth it!



Dear Zoo Puppet Song

I recently shared my undying love for this version of Dear Zoo on Jbrary. I have used it on many outreach visits and every time it is a smash hit. During a recent visit to a school for their Welcome to Kindergarten event even the teachers told me they couldn't stop watching which animal would appear next. If you only try one thing, let it be this one.



Puppets in the Library with Allison Taylor-McBryde

There's nothing like learning from the best! I was lucky enough to have Allison as one of my MLIS instructors and in this video she shares her expertise in using puppets with young children. Her version of If You Give a Mouse a Cookie is one of my all time favourites.

Folkmanis Puppetry for Educators

Have you seen the Folkmanis YouTube channel? They show how to use each of their puppets which is helpful before purchasing. I recommend the Bringing Your Puppets to Life video and the BINGO with a puppet video for beginners.





Library of Virginia Puppets and Props

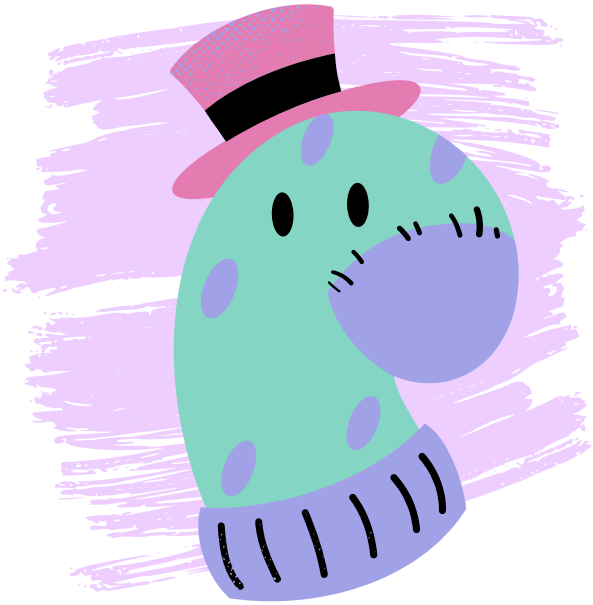
Shout out to the state of Virginia! They have an excellent series of videos on how to use various puppets and props. I recommend How to Introduce a Letter or Number of the Day, Hide and Seek House with Finger Puppets, and A Rhyming We Will Go.

Storytelling With Puppets

If you are ready to tell full on stories with puppets check out this YouTube channel created by a children's librarian for children's librarians.

Jbrary Puppet Songs and Rhymes

Dana and I shared a variety of easy puppet songs and rhymes on Jbrary. I'm talking real simple, folks. Perfect for those who feel intimidated by puppets!



Do you have a favourite way to use puppets at the library? I'd love to know!

You can email me at jbrary@gmail.com.

Program Roundup

Fun happenings at a library near you!

Sphero Tiny Pride

Vancouver Public Library

Build a tiny float for a robot Sphero and then use an iPad to navigate the parade route through the library. For Grades 2 -7.

Break In Bags

Okanagan Regional Library

Escape room fans, this one's for you! Break In Bags flip the script: solve three puzzles to break in and unlock your reward. It's hands-on fun that'll keep you guessing. School age.

Birding for Beginners

Coquitlam Public Library

Learn birding basics and enjoy a beautiful nature walk at ƛ́éxətəm Regional Park (formerly Colony Farm Regional Park). For families and kids age 6 and up.

Kids Explosive Science

Surrey Libraries

Join us for explosive science experiments. For ages 7-12.

Tech for tots

North Vancouver City Library

Bring your little ones to this play session with screen-free technology designed for little humans! For ages 3-6.

Lucky Catch Summer Mystery Game

Whistler Public Library

You've been challenged to become the next Dread Pirate Boberts, Captain of the ship. All ages.

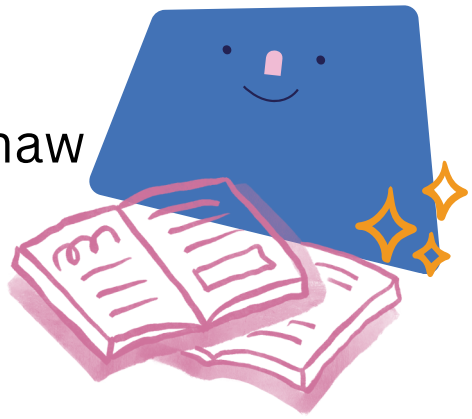
Window Graffiti

Gibsons & District Public Library

Join us in turning the program room into a living gallery! For Ages 3-12.

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*

My "authorstrator" this issue is someone who is fairly new in the world of children's books. He originally debuted in 2020, with Publisher's Weekly profiling him in their "Fall 2020 Flying Starts".

He has already been nominated for awards (Geisel Honor Book and Caldecott Honor Book) and ended up on selection lists (Junior Library Guild Gold Standard Selection, among others).

Why? Because his books are AMAZING! They are fun, the illustrations are bright and cheerful, his stories speak to children, AND they are SOOOO good for storytime. Can you tell I love these books? Meet American Jashar Awan!!

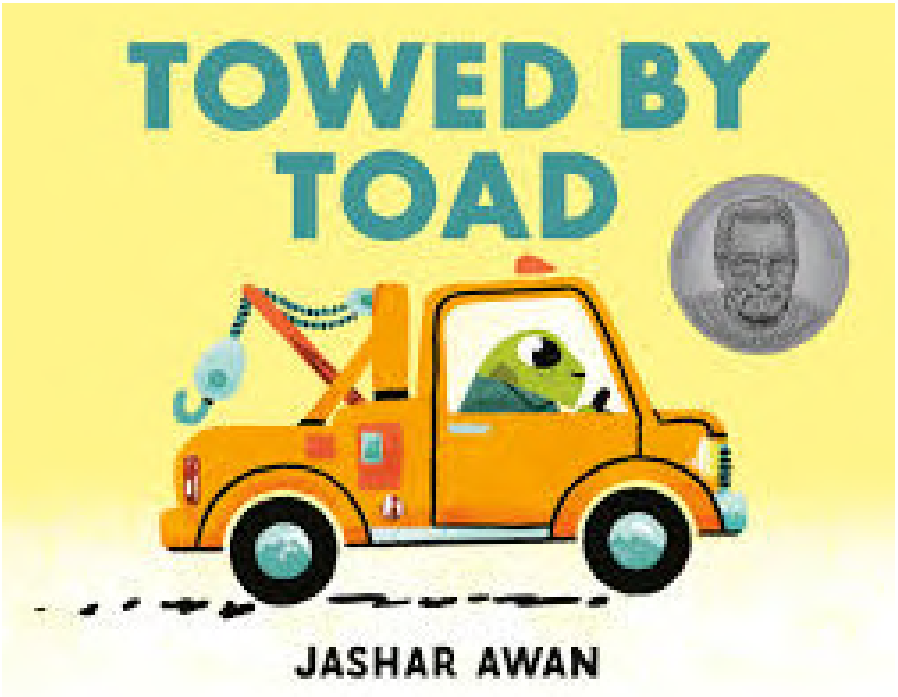
Jashar grew up outside of Washington, DC and his love of drawing led him to doing illustrations for The New Yorker and The New York Times. The publication of his children's book, *What a Lucky Day!*

The year 2020 moved him into children's books and what a lucky thing that was for all of us. He continues to reside in the US with new books coming out almost each year since the first one.

Towed by Toad (Geisel Honor Book)

Toad is having a very busy and somewhat stressful day helping all those that need their vehicle fixed or towed back to Pop's Garage. So busy in fact, there was no time for breakfast. He's happy to help all those in need and this results in him skipping lunch too. Until his little tow truck konks out and so does Toad when he can't fix it. Sometimes admitting you need help is hard. And also, it's important to eat your breakfast and lunch so you have the fuel you need to keep going!

Lots of different vehicles for those that love cars and trucks. Lots of fun animal driver's with great alliteration names having very BIG accidents. All of this coupled with simple illustrations with lots of bright colours makes this book a surefire success for storytime. My preschool audiences have loved it and always want me to read it again. Bonus: you can also talk about feelings!



My last Storytime Stop about Tarō Gomi suggested *I'll Take You Riding in My Car,* and that song would work with this book as well. Or how about a car version of *Old Macdonald Had a Farm* to get the wiggles out?

Chances are everyone knows this song and now you can give it a twist!

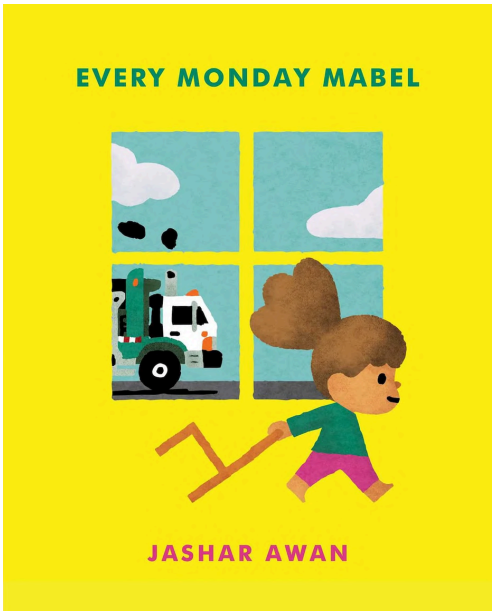
Old MacDonald Had a Car
Old MacDonald had a car
E-I-E-I-O
And on this car there was a horn
E-I-E-I-O
With a beep beep here
And a beep beep there
Here a beep, there a beep
Everywhere a beep beep
Old MacDonald had a car
E-I-E-I-O

Other verses:
wheel (or tire)--spin spin
steering wheel--turn turn
window--up down, up down
motor--vroom vroom
wipers--swish swish

To slow things back down again, how about this version of Twinkle Twinkle Little Star?

Twinkle, Twinkle Traffic Light
Twinkle, twinkle traffic light
Round the corner
shining bright.
Red means stop,
green means go,
And yellow means
go very slow.
Twinkle, twinkle traffic light
Round the corner
shining bright.

Every Monday Mabel (Caldecott Honor Book)



I started with the first Jashar Awan book that I came across, but my biggest favourite by far of his is this one. Again, his illustrations are bright while being simplistic, but they work to tell the story. Mabel gets up on Monday grabs a chair and her favourite breakfast (dry cereal) and heads out to the top of the driveway to sit and wait. She goes past members of her family, who see her as cute or annoying, but Mabel is unconcerned. Then what she is waiting for comes down the street and arrives - the garbage truck!

This is cause for celebration and gives you, the reader, the opportunity to make all sorts of loud noises as the garbage truck arrives, picks up the can and dumps it into the truck. So satisfying, as far as Mabel is concerned, and the same goes for all the other people looking out their windows on the last pages.

Who hasn't watched the garbage truck come by or even waved to the driver?! Children LOVE this book.

A little finger rhyme from Storytime Katie pairs well with this book. It is a twist on Thumbkin - Where Are Trucks?

Where is garbage truck? Where is garbage truck?
Here I am. Here I am.
How are you today, sir? Very well, I thank you.
Drive away. Drive away.
(Tow truck, dump truck, moving truck, firetruck)

Or try I'm a Little Dump Truck (twist on I'm a Little Teapot) from Jbrary. You could play with the wording to make it be a garbage truck!

Jashar Awan's books are perfect for your Story Time shelves. Here are a couple more:

I'm Going to Build a Snowman (ALA Notable Children's Book)



I know we are heading into summer and this is clearly a winter book, but I wanted you to know about it so you have it for when winter hits! A very simple story about a young child going out to build a snowman. They know what to do AND what it should look like. The child describes it as they build it creating an image in the listeners minds of the perfect snowman. When the actual snowman is revealed, well that picture is quite funny. Very sweet and charming.

Loops



Brand new this year, I finally got a chance to look at this one and it is another winner! Has some great meta moments too. The child featured has just learned to tie their shoes, which are a bit big and so keep falling off. Their laces also keep coming undone and so they have to stop to tie them more than once. BUT, they can tie their shoes so they must be a big kid now.

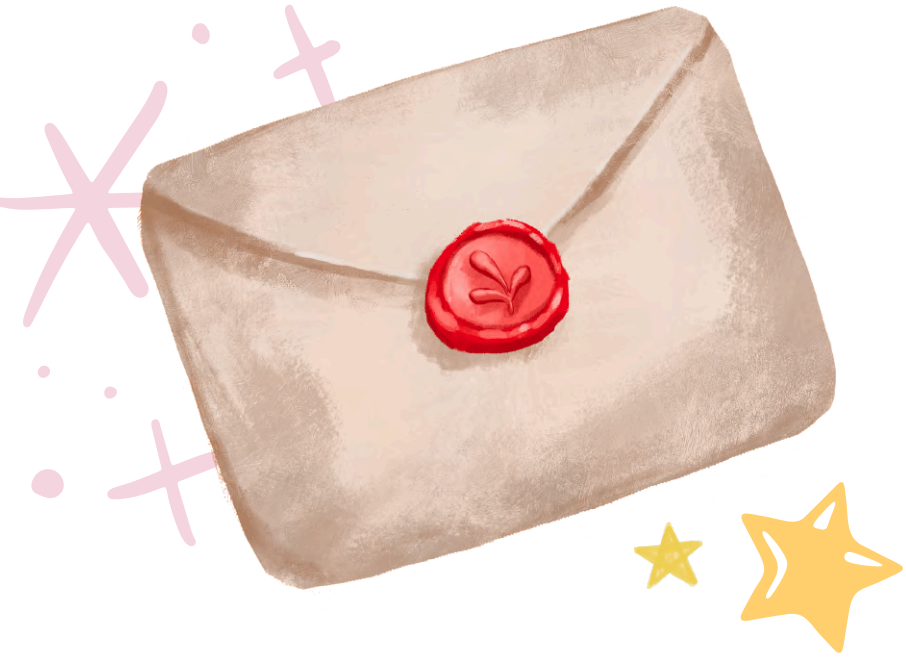
Super positive story about perseverance, trying, and having fun which our hero applies to various playground equipment along the way. Jashar has again captured the life and energy of a young child in their illustrations and focused on a big rite of passage for many. I have not tried it in a storytime yet. If you do, let me know how it goes!

Features

All Ages Taskmaster at the Library - Sara Oremland

I am a mega fan of the British comedy game show Taskmaster which is free to watch on Youtube. In addition to the original show, there is also a much tamer UK season featuring children ages 9-12, as well as many international spinoffs of the original show. (Note: the adult version is often NSFW due to swearing and adult innuendoes).

In essence, competitors are given various kinds of tasks to do on their own, and we the audience get to see how 5 different people tackle often absurd challenges. Some challenges are objective “be the fastest to get this potato in the golf hole from a certain distance”, some challenges are creative “choreograph a dance to an old Nokia ringtone”. Then the Taskmaster scores the 5 different attempts from 1 to 5 and at the end of the series there is a winner. But winning does not matter; it’s really about engaging in playful fun and marveling about how different people’s brains come up with such different ideas. Often fun solutions are found through creativity and lateral thinking. In the UK, the format is used in schools for fun, community building, and to promote problem solving.



During Spring Break in both 2025 and 2026, I co-hosted all ages Taskmaster events for five teams of four. In both years, we had teams of families as well as teen-only teams. In 2025 only one of the teams was familiar with Taskmaster; in 2026 all the teams were huge fans.

Room: Helps to have a program room, ideally with a projector and screen, and that could comfortably fit 6 tables. If there is ability to play sound, that is really helpful, but not a dealbreaker. I did run a smaller version with my Teen Advisory members just out in the middle of the library at some study tables, but it was an after-hours event and the library was closed.

Staffing: One staff member plays the role of the Taskmaster (runs the slideshow/timer and allocates points at the end of each task). One staff member is the assistant (explains and monitors the tasks, gives teams their supplies. Blows a whistle at the end of the task). Both are involved in planning, set up and clean up.

Cost/Supplies: Cost is minimal to none. The only supply I bought across two programs and other events was some linguini for the task of "make the best portrait of the Taskmaster." Everything else was mostly paper, glue, scissors, tape, markers, staplers, and other library supplies, including items from some collections.

Prep: At least 3 hours of prep which included:

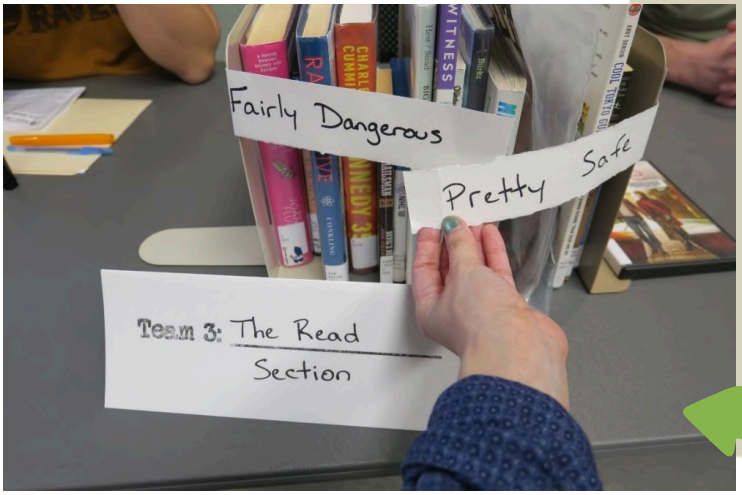
- Coming up with the tasks
- Gathering supplies
- Making some handouts and scoresheets
- Formatting and printing the tasks for each team (5 teams x 5 tasks)
- Setting up a slideshow with embedded timer
- Setting up the room
- Writing a run of show / script

Other settings: I also use Taskmaster-inspired activities for community building in my Teen Advisory Groups, as well as during our TAG end of year party. In fact, two of the tasks we had for our December 2025 party made their way into our March 2026 all-ages program.

Here are some highlights from both years of doing this All Ages Program:



Taskmaster Ashley and Assistant Sara in front of the timer.

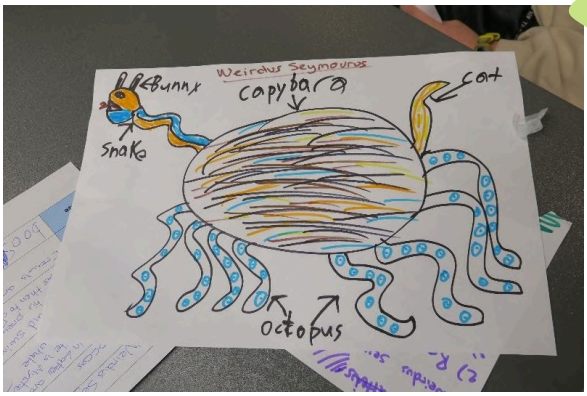


One team's response to the task "Create a new organizational system for the library"

My favourite was the family who created a system to organize book, DBDs, CDs, and puppet kits from least to most dangerous.

One team's response to the task of creating a 3D model of Seymour the Bear (a 2 ft library stuffy beloved by children) closest to 30 grams. Bonus points for accuracy, height, and creativity. Here's "Surfin' Seymour."





One team's response to the task of combining 5 animals into one new animal. The best part was having team member demonstrate the animal's noise and movement!



One team's response to the task of performing an exciting puppet show about a boring subject. (In this case, the subject was having to finish a boring book, and they turned it into a murder mystery!)

Taskmaster Ashley reading over 100 compliments contestants made about her to determine the best one! (My favourites were: "well placed ears," "you shuffle your papers skillfully," "you hold your clipboard with style," "you could run a very profitable mine"). The other part of the task was the teams making the compliments into snowballs and trying to get as many as possibly into a bin.

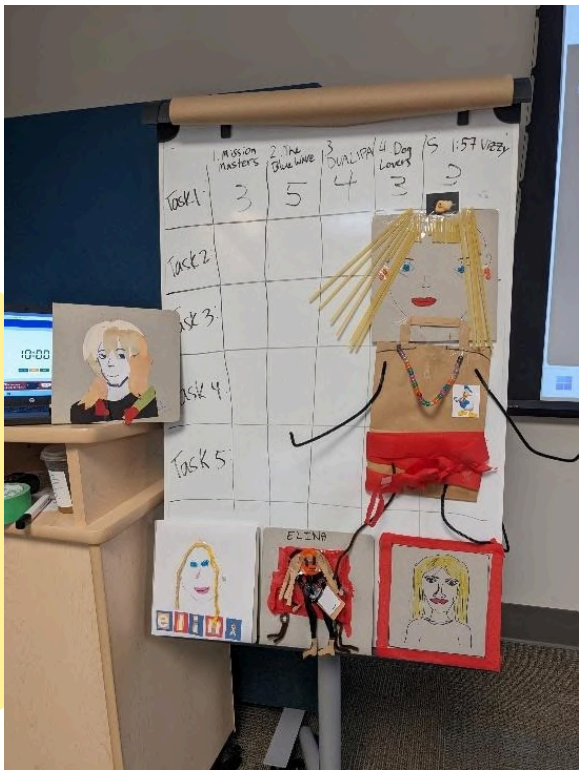


Get the most paper airplanes into your team's box. You may not step over the line. Most planes wins! Bonus points for smallest plane, biggest plane, most colourful plane, most accurate plane. (Some of the dads were very into this one).





This board was brought out for 2 minutes while something else was happening. Then we took it away. The task was to write down as many things you could remember being on the board!



Taskmaster Assistant Sara finishing the memory board.

5 team attempts at a portrait of the 2025 Taskmaster, Elina.

Attendees feedback: Both years, the attendees gushed about how fun it was. After each task each group would share what they had done, and everyone was engaged as audience members. Applause for every group, for every task. Fun energy, lots of laughs! They always ask, “when are you doing this again?”

Program Breakdown:	
Category:	Program
Length of program:	Approx. 90 minutes
Max participants:	20
Cost:	Low
Prep:	Medium/High
Staffing:	2 Staff members
Need a program room?	Strongly recommended
Vibes:	Awesome!

Final thoughts: If you want to do this program, I can give you all my documents! Which can cut down on some of the time and work 😊



By Sara Oremland, Teen Engagement Librarian at North Vancouver District Public Library
oremlands@nvdpl.ca

Features

A First Try at a Teen Film Festival - Sara Oremland

Background/Inspiration:
In past years, teens have helped make promotional videos for the Teen Summer Reading Challenge, a joint program between North Vancouver District Public Library (NVDPL) and North Vancouver City Library (NVCL). Find links to past (and present) video here and here!

NVDPL and NVCL also collaborate on an annual Teen Summer Writing Contest, which culminates in a party for all writers who have submitted a story. At the party, the winners are announced and each teen writer has a chance to read a sample of their story for the Audience Choice Award. It is always so lovely to hear the teens read their work and see them be encouraged and celebrated.

In talking with our three Teen Advisory Groups, there seemed to be an appetite for an event to build on the success of the Writing Contest and highlight teen creativity in a video medium.

At NVDPL, we have a podcast and video studio at our Lynn Valley branch called StoryLab. It had long not had a director, but in fall 2025 the library filled the position of Creative Technology Coordinator, Nate. Nate was enthusiastic about StoryLab supporting a Teen Film Festival. There was a push from some of our grade 12 teens to make this happen before they graduated, so we thought if we scheduled a Teen Film Festival for April it would be enough time to figure out how to pull it off! We were able to use the Writing Contest Party as a partial template for how to run the event.



Format:
Early on we agreed that a Teen Film Festival should be a showcase, not a competition. With the Teen Summer Writing Contest, we try to make the competition fair by breaking down prizes by age groups. But with film, we thought that even if we had competitions by age, there would be inequity around access to equipment and technical know-how. Not having judging also removed a whole other layer of logistics and labour!

Planning and Promotion:
We decided to make a day of it, and scheduled three film events for teens at our Lynn Valley location on Saturday April 25th. I the morning there was a workshop for teens on mobile filmmaking presented by Nate from StoryLab. In the early afternoon, we had a filmmaker talk by local filmmaker Breanne Williamson (who went to the high school nearest Lynn Valley!)

The screenings were scheduled for right after Bre's talk.

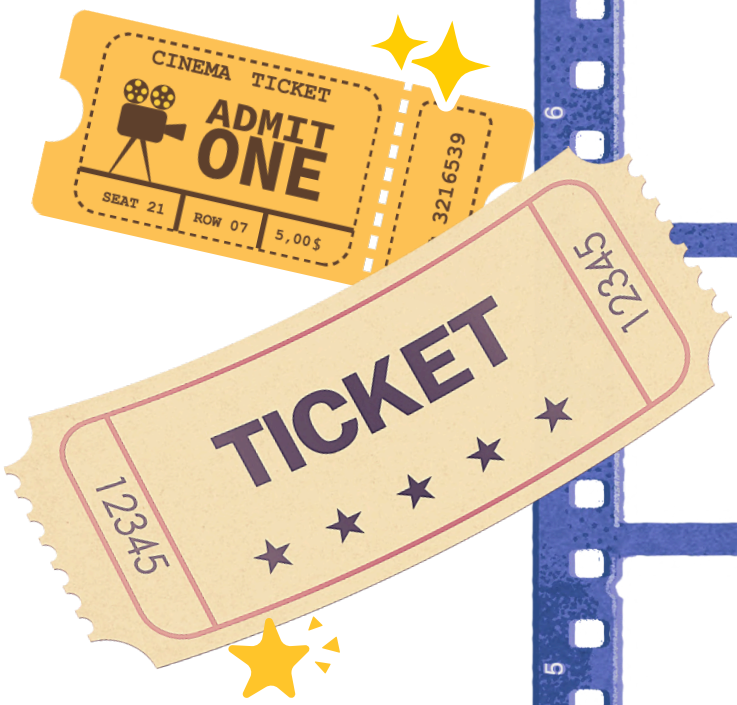
Because the library has to share event and meeting rooms with the rec centre, we were a bit constrained for our timing and choice of dates. Isn't it always a thing that rooms are at a premium at a public library?

We promoted the event through library posters and social media, and by contacting community partners such as youth workers, our library neighbours, Capilano University, and local high schools. It was kind of a dual promotion since were were trying both to get teens to submit their films, and community members to come and watch! We also were able to get some promotion through they help of our local community newspaper, the North Shore News.

We ended up getting 19 submissions from teens 13-18 in West Vancouver, North Van City, and North Van District. Five of the films were from beginner filmmakers who attended a 5 day film camp during Spring Break at North Vancouver City Library – this was a program run by The Cinematheque.

Submissions were received through a Microsoft Form. The submission window was the entire month of March, but we received almost all of the films in the final few days before we closed the form. Nate and I reviewed all films ahead of time to make sure they were suitable for a general audience and did not having any glaring copyright issues. We also created a Run of Show starting with the five films from the Cinematheque beginner film camp, and then programmed the other submissions so that there was a variety of lengths and genres. The longest film was about 13 minutes, with most coming in around 5 minutes. We had ALL the genres including one animation!

Despite all of this promotion, the day before the event we only had around 20 people – including the teen filmmakers – registered to attend in a room set up for 100 audience members. Only a few teens had signed up for the mobile filmmaking program. We looked at the weather and cursed the fact that it was going to be a gorgeous spring day when people would want to be outside- we were so nervous the Film Fest would be a flop!



Event Day!

Four teens attended the mobile filmmaking workshop, about 25 people came for Beanne Williamson's talk and 45 people attended the screenings, with most of them staying the entire time. This, despite the fact that the program room we used is pretty much ALL GLASS and that even with blinds pulled, it was impossible to see at least a third of the images because the room was not dark enough. The sound was also ...not great. However, the audience was enthusiastic and generous and it was all good vibes.

We estimate that only about 20% of the teens who submitted films showed up. We have sent out a feedback form to try to determine why they did not or could not attend. For the teens who did attend, they enjoyed getting applause, a swag bag, and of course there were snacks (all teen program require snacks).



Future

We hope if we do this again we can have stronger connections with the high schools, CapU, and Cinematheque. With the permission of the North Van City library and the West Van library, we named our event the North Shore Teen Film Festival, and we would love to see how we can better collaborate with our neighbour libraries.

We are thinking about having the next Teen Film Festival in January or February when the light will not be so harsh so late in the day, and when there is less desire for people to go outside. We have learned a lot from our first attempt and we are eager to try again!

By Sara Oremland, Teen Engagement Librarian at North Vancouver District Public Library

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Features

My First Conference Experience - Ava Ready

Stories for Everyone: Creating Accessible Storytime Programs

This past April, I participated in the British Columbia Library Conference for the first time. I am an MLIS student, and I work at the Greater Victoria Public Library. Within librarianship, I am passionate about children's services and accessibility. I brought these two interests together and created my poster, *Stories for Everyone: Creating Accessible Storytime Programs*.

I researched accessibility standards and guidelines, library storytimes, accessible spaces, and materials to develop my poster, which provides practical information for creating storytimes that are welcoming to everyone, including people with disabilities. After my proposal was selected, I worked with my library to develop the poster. I created several drafts of the poster content and ensured the poster itself was accessible.

I worked with the City of Victoria Accessibility Advisory Committee, who provided valuable input on the content and poster accessibility, and recorded the audio description of the poster. I also got to know several members of the committee, and have developed meaningful relationships with them. In addition, I worked with my BCLA mentor, who provided valuable feedback along the way and shared their conference experience. Finally, I worked with several individuals at my work; they helped me develop the content and design my poster. I want to give a huge shoutout to everyone who helped me develop the poster!

Some of the key takeaways from my poster are to ensure the programming space is accessible (e.g. washroom accessibility, ramp access, audibility, seating options, navigation, to name a few), so that individuals can access the program space. Building on that is providing options; offering different programs gives more opportunities for everyone to participate (e.g., visual storytime, audio, sensory, and more).

Something I have incorporated in my programs is using a visual schedule to support understanding and provide a visual guideline of the program. As I shared, this was my first time participating in a professional conference, and since I'm in library school, I thought it would be the perfect opportunity to apply my research skills and connect more with the library community.

I am pursuing my Master's in Library and Information Studies online, and this conference really enhanced my learning experience and made me feel more connected to the library community. At the conference, my poster was displayed during one of the conference days. I stood with my poster and had a printout take-home version as well. I will admit I was nervous that morning, but once I started talking to people, the nerves disappeared. I had meaningful conversations with library workers from across the province in different library sectors.

We talked about accessibility in our own libraries, the poster, ideas for the future, and the importance of accessibility being at the forefront of program design. I left the day feeling full of gratitude and full of even more ideas than I had started with. With all of that said, if you are a student or have an idea that you think would be worth sharing, I encourage you to send in a proposal. I have learned so much about accessibility and conferences and would highly recommend it!

Let's chat!

If you would like to hear more about my poster, chat about accessibility, or hear more about my conference experience, please reach out to me at:
a.ready_88@hotmail.com

Resources:

CELA Accessible Libraries: Storytime
Disability Awareness from Accessible Libraries
Accessible B.C. Act
BCLA Training Videos on Accessibility
My Visual Schedule

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

September 7

December 28

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 **June 24th, July 29th,** and **August 26th**. Links to meetings will be shared on the *YAACS forum*, and everyone is welcome!