



# OWLKIDS BOOKS

SPRING 2020 FRONTLIST

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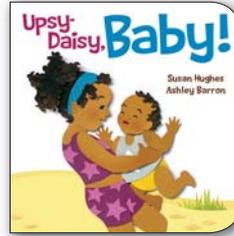
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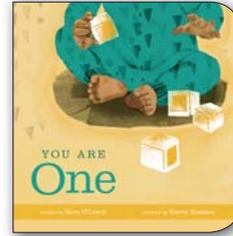


## Also Available as Board Books

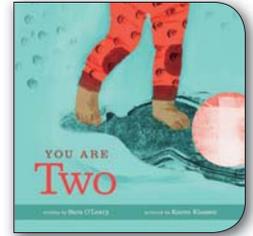
*A growing collection of books for the youngest readers*



Upsy Daisy, Baby!  
BB • \$11.95 CDN / \$9.95 US  
ISBN 978-1-77147-387-3



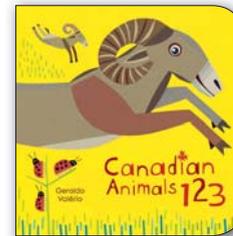
You Are One  
BB • \$11.95 CDN / \$9.95 US  
ISBN 978-1-77147-355-2



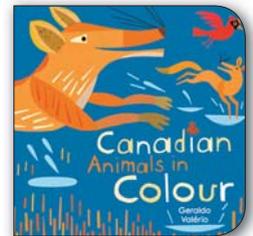
You Are Two  
BB • \$11.95 CDN / \$9.95 US  
ISBN 978-1-77147-356-9



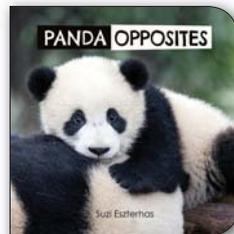
Canadian Animals ABC  
BB • \$11.95 CDN / \$9.95 US  
ISBN 978-1-77147-346-0



Canadian Animals 123  
BB • \$11.95 CDN / \$9.95 US  
ISBN 978-1-77147-347-7



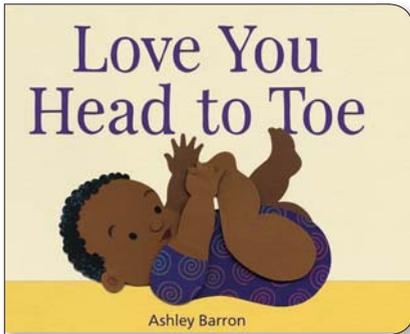
Canadian Animals in Colour  
BB • \$11.95 CDN / \$9.95 US  
ISBN 978-1-77147-388-0



Panda Opposites  
BB • \$12.95 CDN / \$9.95 US  
ISBN 978-1-77147-330-9



# An endearing read-aloud that compares babies to other newborn animals



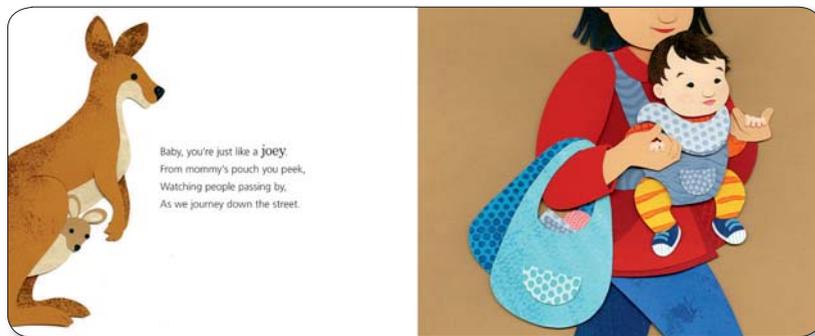
## Love You Head to Toe

*Written and illustrated by Ashley Barron*

Pairing creative rhyming similes with cut-paper collage art, *Love You Head to Toe* is an adorable book that compares newborn babies to baby animals on every page. Bright, playful illustrations show a different baby and a different species of animal,

both engaged in similar behavior: babies stretch their limbs like sea stars, splash in the water like ducklings, toddle around like bear cubs, and fill their chubby cheeks like chipmunks.

Action verbs on each page give the book energy and movement and reflect the varied activities of a baby's day, with key elements like mealtime, bath time, and bedtime in chronological order. Babies and caregivers of a wide range of ethnicities are represented in this heartwarming read-aloud designed to show little ones how much they are cherished and loved.



ASHLEY BARRON studied illustration at the Ontario College of Art & Design. She has since illustrated a number of books with Owlkids and Kids Can Press. Ashley shares a studio with her partner and two cats in Toronto, Ontario.

March 2020

28 PAGES • 6.5 x 6 • AGES 0–3

BB • \$11.95 CDN / \$9.95 US

ISBN 978-1-77147-403-0



Also Available in Hardcover

HC • \$18.95 CDN / \$16.95 US

ISBN 978-1-77147-304-0

READING LEVELS

Grade: 1

Fountas & Pinnell: 1

Reading Recovery: 15-16

Lexile® Measure: AD600L

COMMON CORE

RL.1, SL.1, L.1, W.1

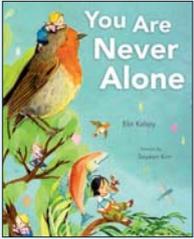
Early Childhood

Diversity

## Key Features

- New in board book format
- Authorial debut by award-winning illustrator Ashley Barron
- Features a comparison to a different newborn animal on each page
- Sequence of the story follows the course of a day

Also by Elin Kelsey  
and Soyeon Kim



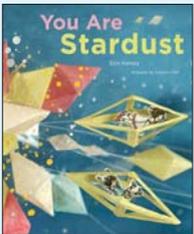
HC • \$19.95 CDN / \$18.95 US  
ISBN 978-1-77147-315-6

★ “Breathtakingly beautiful.”  
— *Kirkus* (starred review)



HC • \$18.95 CDN / \$18.95 US  
ISBN 978-1-77147-062-9

★ “Speaks directly to young readers  
in carefully constructed, elegant,  
accessible language that transcends  
the ordinary... Profound and  
entirely wonderful.”  
— *Kirkus* (starred review)

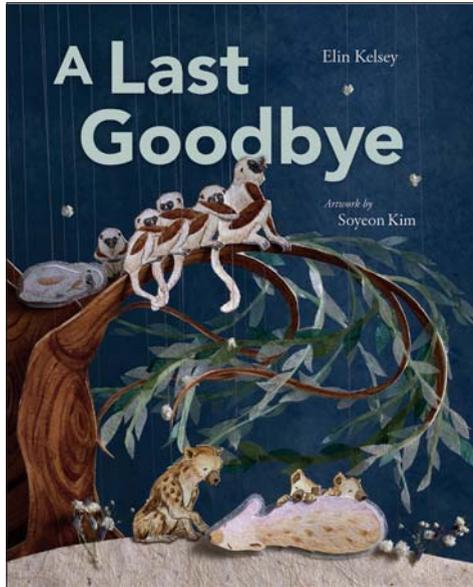


HC • \$18.95 CDN / \$18.95 US  
ISBN 978-1-926973-35-7

★ “Perfect for sparking adult and  
child conversations about our  
place in the universe. A remarkable  
achievement.”  
— *Kirkus* (starred review)

## A compassionate exploration of all the ways animals, including humans, grieve





## A Last Goodbye

Written by Elin Kelsey  
Illustrated by Soyeon Kim

How do we say goodbye to a loved one after they die? This book broaches a difficult topic in a heartfelt way by exploring the beauty in how animals mourn. From elephants to whales, parrots to bonobos, and lemurs to humans, we all have rituals to commemorate our loved ones and to lift each other up in difficult times.

New from the award-winning team behind *You Are Stardust*, *Wild Ideas*, and *You Are Never Alone*, this book gently recognizes death as a natural part of life for humans and all animals. Written in spare, poetic language and illustrated with stunning dioramas, it draws out our similarities with other animals as it honors the universal experience of mourning. The touching and uplifting book ends on a hopeful note, showing how we live on both in memories and on the planet, our bodies nourishing new life in the Earth and the oceans.

ELIN KELSEY, PhD, is an award-winning author and a leading spokesperson for hope and the environment. She co-created #OceanOptimism, a Twitter campaign to share ocean conservation successes, which has reached 90 million users to date. She works with the Monterey Bay Aquarium, Stanford University, and the University of Victoria and is passionate about engaging kids in hopeful, science-based, environmental solutions.

SOYEON KIM is a Toronto-based, Korean-born artist who specializes in fine sketching and painting techniques to create three-dimensional dioramas. She is a graduate of the Visual Arts and Education programs at York University.

April 2020

32 PAGES • 8.25 x 10.25 • AGES 4+

HC • \$19.95 CDN / \$18.95 US

ISBN 978-1-77147-364-4



CURRICULUM

**Language Arts:** Skills and Strategies

**Science:** Life Science; Animals;

Environment; Biology; Life Systems

READING LEVELS

Grade: 2–5

Fountas & Pinnell: O

Lexile® Measure: 610L

COMMON CORE

RL.3, L.3, RF.3, SL.3, W.3

Inquiry

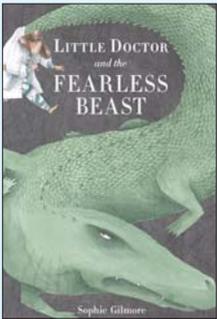
STEM

Social - Emotional Learning

## Key Features

- New from the award-winning collaborators Elin Kelsey and Soyeon Kim
- A gentle and accessible look at the idea of death
- Reinforces our connection to nature and the animal kingdom

Also by Sophie Gilmore



HC • \$19.95 CDN / \$17.95 US  
ISBN 978-1-77147-344-6

Named a *Publishers Weekly*  
Flying Start of Spring 2019

“With its softly detailed, virtuoso art and a perfectly wrought story full of heart and respect for the imaginative rules of children’s play, this debut shines.”

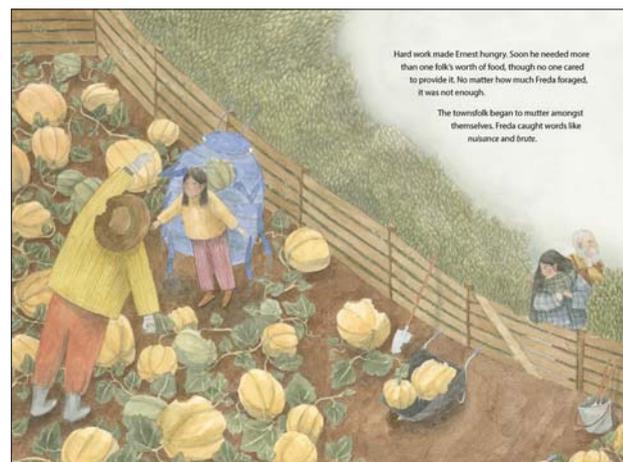
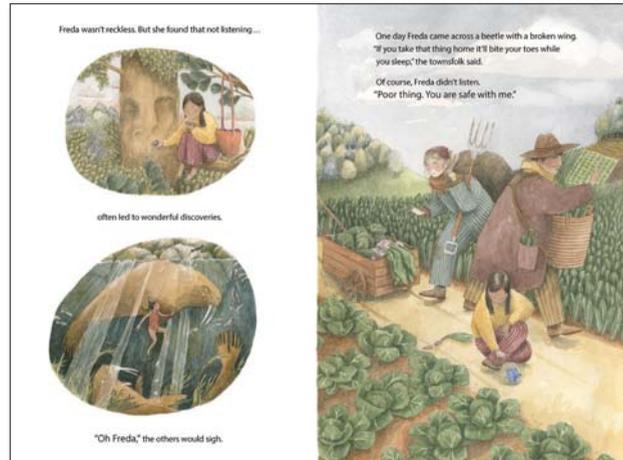
— *New York Times*

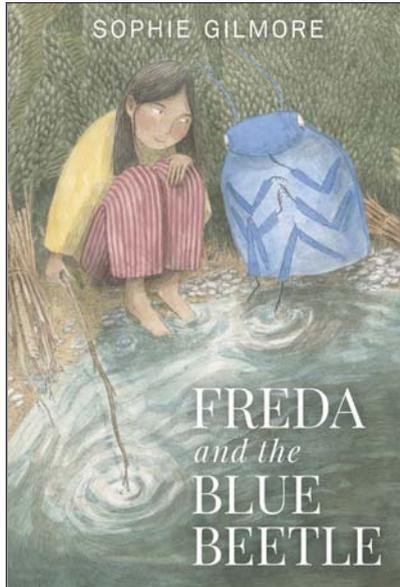
★ *Booklist*

★ *Kirkus*

★ *Publishers Weekly*

## A fantastical fable about one girl’s courage to listen to her heart





## Freda and the Blue Beetle

*Written and illustrated by Sophie Gilmore*

Freda lives in a town where people are always telling her to be more careful. But Freda loves to explore—which is how, one day, she discovers an injured beetle. She names him Ernest, feeds him, and befriends him. They become inseparable as Ernest grows ever bigger and stronger.

Noticing Ernest's now-enormous size, the townspeople put him to work. But Ernest is strange and has a strong appetite, and when a prize ewe goes missing, people start to talk. Freda listens to their appeals and sends her beloved friend away. But when a terrible storm puts the villagers in real danger, Freda knows who can help—and she stands up and says so. After Ernest uses his unique strength to save the day, everyone wants him to stay. But maybe this time, Freda and Ernest will choose to listen to their hearts.

Illustrated in watercolor and gouache, this is a fantastical modern fable about the value of listening to yourself, not always listening to others, and making your own voice heard.

SOPHIE GILMORE is a writer and illustrator living in Italy. She works with watercolor and pen and illustrates friend, foe, and ordinary girls quietly doing extraordinary things. Sometimes all in one book.

**April 2020**

32 PAGES • 7.5 x 11 • AGES 4–8

HC • \$19.95 CDN / \$17.95 US

**ISBN 978-1-77147-381-1**



**CURRICULUM**

**Language Arts:** Reading

**READING LEVELS**

Grade: K–5

Fountas & Pinnell: N

Lexile® Measure: 650L

**COMMON CORE**

SL.3, RF.3, L.3, RL.3, W.3

Character Development

Social - Emotional Learning

## Key Features

- New from the author of *Little Doctor and the Fearless Beast*
- Features a strong female character making her voice heard
- Themes of empathy, social-emotional learning, and justice

April 2020

32 PAGES • 10.25 x 8.25 • AGES 2–5

HC • \$18.95 CDN / \$16.95 US

ISBN 978-1-77147-359-0



## READING LEVELS

Grade: PreK–3

Fountas & Pinnell: H

Reading Recovery: 13–14

Lexile® Measure: AD220L

## COMMON CORE

W.1, RL.1, L.1, RF.1, SL.1

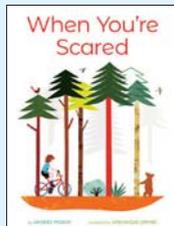
Character Development

Social - Emotional Learning

## Key Features

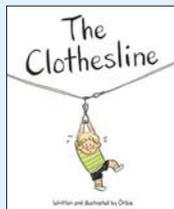
- A gentle, funny story about separation anxiety
- Whimsical setting with humor in the details
- Speech bubbles introduce graphic storytelling

## Also Recommended



HC • \$19.95 CDN / \$17.95 US

ISBN 978-1-77147-365-1



HC • \$18.95 CDN / \$16.95 US

ISBN 978-1-77147-390-3

# At the polar bear beach, one little cub isn't ready to float on his own



## Don't Let Go!

Written and illustrated by *Élisabeth Eudes-Pascal*

It's a frosty day at the beach, and a polar bear family is at play among the ice floes. The cubs splash around, all except the youngest, who's nervously hanging onto his dad in the water. He's

just not ready to swim on his own. Despite encouragement from Dad, the cub is insistent: "Don't let go!"

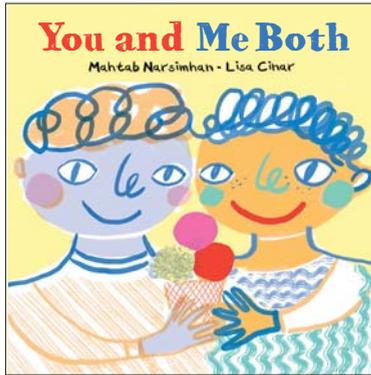
Maybe a flotation device would help? One by one, the little bear adds a lifesaver, a flutter board, a pool noodle, and a rubber ball to his body, all while clutching his dad. Eventually, the cub is so loaded down with large and colorful toys that his dad is able to sneak away unnoticed. But will he still be afraid to float on his own?

This simple, funny story is told in speech bubbles and illustrations. Full of color, laughter, and polar bears in vibrant swimsuits, this is a playful and lighthearted exploration of the challenges of independence.



ÉLISABETH EUDES-PASCAL studied painting at Concordia University and illustration at the Université du Québec à Montréal. She has lived around the world, including in France and India. She now lives in Montreal, Quebec. She has published books in both English and French, and is the author and illustrator of three books for children.

## The story of two boys with more in common than meets the eye



### You and Me Both

Written by Mahtab Narsimhan  
Illustrated by Lisa Cinar

This is the story of two classmates who love all the same things: building tall block towers and knocking them down; strawberry jam on toast; jumping into big puddles in their matching boots. The narrator and his best friend, Jamal, might as well be twins—they have so much in common! And they always stick together.

When Jamal gets a haircut, his best friend gets his cut the same way. They're sure their teacher will never be able to tell them apart. The vibrant, playful illustrations eventually reveal that the boys each have a different skin color.

Inspired by a true story that went viral on social media—about two boys with different skin colors who got the same haircut thinking it would make them identical—this is a joyful story about friendship, diversity, and how the things we share are more than skin-deep.



MAHTAB NARSIMHAN is an award-winning author with numerous critically acclaimed books nominated for awards, including *The Third Eye*, which won the Silver Birch Fiction Award. She is inspired by life, love, and the desire to make sense of the world through stories. Mahtab is deeply committed to representing diversity in her books. She lives in Vancouver, British Columbia.

LISA CINAR is an illustrator and owner of the online shop Draw Me a Lion. She has written and illustrated several picture books in addition to the Clara Humble series. Lisa lives in Vancouver, British Columbia.

April 2020

24 PAGES • 9.5 x 9.5 • AGES 3–6

HC • \$18.95 CDN / \$16.95 US  
ISBN 978-1-77147-366-8



CURRICULUM

Language Arts: Reading

Character Development

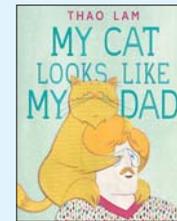
Diversity

Social - Emotional Learning

### Key Features

- Inspired by a true story that went viral online
- An uplifting book that celebrates diversity
- Embraces the joys and innocence of childhood

### Also Recommended



HC • \$19.95 CDN / \$17.95 US  
ISBN 978-1-77147-351-4

★ Booklist

March 2020

32 PAGES • 8.125 x 10 • AGES 3–7

HC • \$18.95 CDN / \$16.95 US

ISBN 978-1-77147-337-8



## CURRICULUM

**Language Arts:** Reading Comprehension

**Character Education:** Empathy;  
Teamwork

## READING LEVELS

Grade: PreK–3

Fountas & Pinnell: K

Reading Recovery: 18

Lexile® Measure: AD460L

## COMMON CORE

RF.2, L.2, SL.2, W.2, RL.2

Early Childhood

Character Development

Social - Emotional Learning

## Key Features

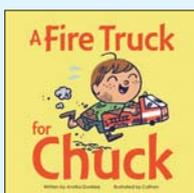
- New from best-selling author Annika Dunklee
- A loving approach to sibling dynamics
- Highlights the power of imagination and play

## Also by Annika Dunklee



HC • \$19.95 CDN / \$17.95 US

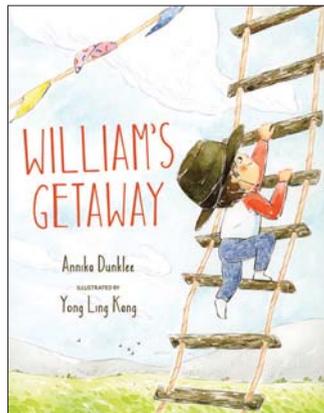
ISBN 978-1-77147-308-8



HC • \$18.95 CDN / \$16.95 US

ISBN 978-1-77147-285-2

# An imaginary hot-air balloon adventure brings two siblings closer in an unexpected way



## William's Getaway

Written by Annika Dunklee

Illustrated by Yong Ling Kang

William's little brother, Edgar, always wants to play. But today, William wants some time to himself. William has a big getaway planned: an escape up into his hot-air balloon. It's the perfect place because Edgar is always afraid to join him. But Edgar decides that today, he wants to come. William is very surprised and extremely disappointed.

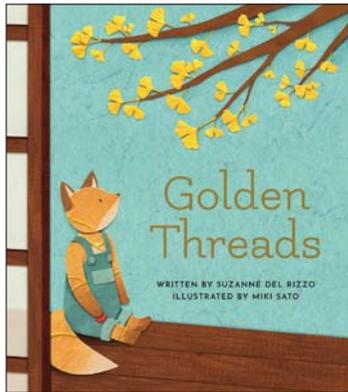
Edgar over-prepares for the journey. What if he gets hungry, thirsty, cold, bored? What if he gets scared? So William gives up his grand plans for a solo getaway to help his little brother up, offering him encouraging words and an exciting adventure. In the end, William loves the shared adventure, too—even though the hot-air balloon is really only the top of their shared bunk bed, which careful readers will find hinted at through clues in the illustrations. This loving sibling story celebrates the bond between brothers, the wonders of an imaginary adventure, and the value of an occasional compromise.



ANNIKA DUNKLEE is the award-winning author of many books, including *My Name Is Elizabeth!*, named to the 2011 *New York Times* Notable Children's Book list. Annika lives with her husband and two teens in Toronto, Ontario. Her older sister—who, thankfully, took the top bunk as a kid—lives there, too!

YONG LING KANG is an illustrator who grew up in Singapore and now lives in Toronto, Ontario. She enjoys making art that highlights the small moments of everyday life, and taking long walks.

# A beloved toy fox becomes lost, tattered, repaired, and loved for his imperfections



## Golden Threads

Written by Suzanne Del Rizzo  
Illustrated by Miki Sato

When a storm sweeps Emi’s beloved stuffed fox away from their mountain home, he ends up tattered and alone on a distant shore. A kind old man finds the fox and gives it to his granddaughter, Kiko. As she recovers from an injury of her own, Kiko mends the fox lovingly with golden thread.

As the seasons pass, Kiko cares for the fox as her own. But after discovering his origins, she sets out, with her grandfather’s help, to bring the fox back to its original home. Once united, Emi and Kiko piece together the fox’s journey and find delight in their newly forged connections.

*Golden Threads* is inspired by the Japanese art form of *kintsugi*, or golden joinery, where broken pottery is repaired with resin painted gold. *Kintsugi* values repairing, rather than replacing, believing that the cracks give the broken item its story. This book is also a warm celebration of *wabi-sabi*, the Japanese idea that there is beauty in things that may be incomplete or imperfect.



SUZANNE DEL RIZZO began her career in picture books as the illustrator of the award-winning *Skink on the Brink*. She left scientific research to make children’s books, creating illustrations with polymer clay/mixed media. Suzanne’s author-illustrator debut, *My Beautiful Birds*, was a *New York Times* Notable Children’s Book and Malka Penn Award for Human Rights in Children’s Literature winner. Suzanne lives with her family in Oakville, Ontario.

MIKI SATO is a Japanese-Canadian freelance illustrator who graduated from the Ontario College of Art and Design. She works with papers, fabrics, and surfaces to create three-dimensional illustrations. Miki was born in Ottawa and currently resides in Toronto, Ontario. Her work has appeared in publications including *Today’s Parent*, *The Walrus*, and *Reader’s Digest*.

April 2020

32 PAGES • 8 x 9 • AGES 4–8

HC • \$19.95 CDN / \$17.95 US  
ISBN 978-1-77147-360-6



CURRICULUM

Language Arts: Reading

READING LEVELS

Grade: PreK–4  
Fountas & Pinnell: M  
Reading Recovery: 20  
Lexile® Measure: 670L

COMMON CORE

RL.2, W.2, SL.2, RF.2, L.2

Early Childhood

Character Development

## Key Features

- New from *New York Times* notable honoree Suzanne Del Rizzo, the critically acclaimed author of *My Beautiful Birds* and illustrator of *Sun Dog*
- Inspired by the Japanese art form of *kintsugi*, or golden joinery, and the ancient philosophy of *wabi-sabi*, finding beauty in imperfect things. An author’s note explains more about these ideas.
- Mixed-media illustrations use fabric and golden threads

## Also Recommended



HC • \$18.95 CDN / \$16.95 US  
ISBN 978-1-77147-335-4

March 2020

32 PAGES • 9 x 10 • AGES 4–8

HC • \$19.95 CDN / \$17.95 US

ISBN 978-1-77147-331-6



CURRICULUM

**Language Arts:** Reading  
Comprehension; Skills and Strategies

**History:** Biography

READING LEVELS

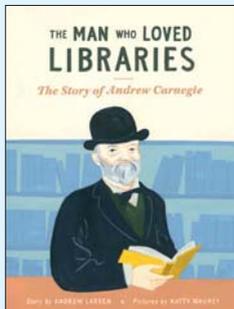
Lexile® Measure: 650L

Character Development

## Key Features

- Inspired by the true story of Clarence Brazier, who learned to read at almost one hundred years old
- New from acclaimed and best-selling author Roy MacGregor, along with his daughter, Christine MacGregor Cation
- Strong curriculum ties to language arts and the value of literacy
- Back matter includes photos and facts about Clarence's life, including his work as a literacy advocate in Ontario

## Also Recommended



HC • \$18.95 CDN / \$16.95 US

ISBN 978-1-77147-267-8

# An empowering story that shows it's never too late to learn new things



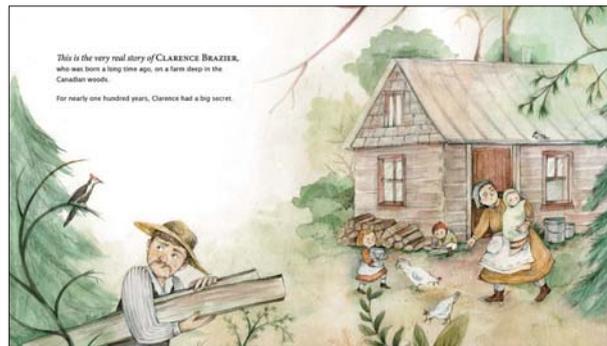
## Clarence's Big Secret

Written by Roy MacGregor and  
Christine MacGregor Cation  
Illustrated by Mathilde Cinq-Mars

Clarence Brazier kept a big secret for nearly one hundred years: he didn't know how to read. This picture book tells the true story of his journey to learn—and then love—to read.

As a young boy, Clarence cut class and took over the farm work when his father was blinded in an accident. Clarence worked as a logger, maintained his own successful farm, and became a father and a grandfather. All the while, he never learned to read. His wife was the only one who knew his secret. When she passed away, Clarence taught himself to read using junk mail. He was almost one hundred years old! Eventually, Clarence confessed to his daughter, a teacher, who helped him learn more. He went on to love reading and became a passionate literacy advocate until he died at age 105.

This inspirational and empowering story highlights Clarence's resourcefulness and the power of literacy. It illustrates the use of growth mindset to achieve difficult goals, and shows it's never too late to learn a new skill.

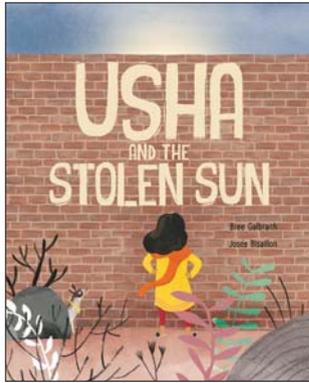


ROY MACGREGOR is the best-selling author of more than 50 books and an award-winning journalist, author, and screenwriter. He is an Officer of the Order of Canada and lives in Kanata, Ontario.

CHRISTINE MACGREGOR CATION is a high school teacher in the field of visual arts. *Clarence's Big Secret*, cowritten with her father, is her first picture book. Christine lives in Kanata, Ontario, with her husband and two children.

MATHILDE CINQ-MARS illustrates picture books and graphic novels with pencils and watercolors, and she creates editorial art for magazines and animation for television. She lives with her partner and daughter in Trois-Rivières, Québec.

## A courageous girl brings down a dividing wall with her words



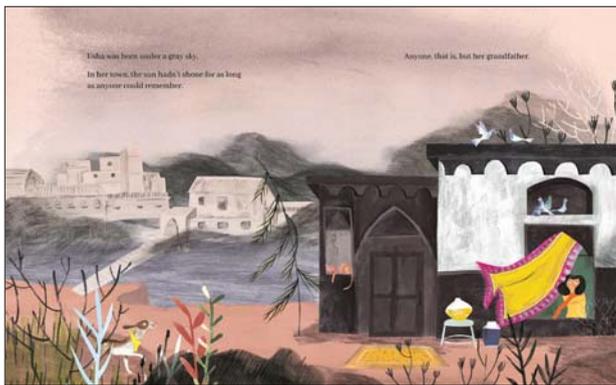
### Usha and the Stolen Sun

Written by Bree Galbraith  
Illustrated by Josée Bisailon

Usha lives in a town where the sun hasn't shone for as long as anyone can remember. Only her grandfather has seen its brilliance and tells Usha stories about the time before other people took the sun away, building a wall to keep it all to themselves. So Usha decides to do something and sets off in search of the sun.

When at last Usha reaches the wall, she tries to kick it down, climb it, yell her way through it—but the bricks don't budge. It's only after remembering her grandfather's words and hearing voices on the other side of the wall that Usha changes her plan. She sings, shares her grandfather's stories, and piques the curiosity of the people on the other side until they are inspired to remove the bricks, one by one, to better hear what Usha has to say. Together, they bring the wall down.

Inspired by the idea of civil discourse, this book offers a timely message of communication and compassion.



BREE GALBRAITH is a UBC Master of Creative Writing graduate and author of the award-winning titles *Once Upon a Balloon* and *Milo and Georgie*. She lives in the heart of Vancouver with her family, where, when she's not writing, she's definitely outside enjoying the wonders of the west coast.

JOSÉE BISAILLON obtained a bachelor's degree in graphic design and illustrates books using a mix of collage, drawing and digital montage. She has illustrated more than twenty picture books, two of which were nominated for a Governor General's Award for children's book illustration. She lives near Montreal, Quebec, with her husband and children.

March 2020

32 PAGES • 8.5 × 10.5 • AGES 5–8

HC • \$19.95 CDN / \$17.95 US  
ISBN 978-1-77147-276-0



CURRICULUM  
Language Arts: Reading

READING LEVELS  
Grade: PreK–4  
Fountas & Pinnell: K  
Reading Recovery: 19  
Lexile® Measure: 550L

COMMON CORE  
SL.2, W.2, L.2, RL.2, RF.2

Character Development

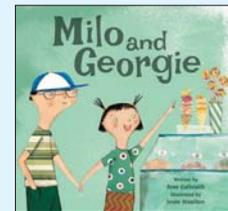
Diversity

Social - Emotional Learning

### Key Features

- New from Blue Spruce Award-nominated team, author Bree Galbraith and illustrator Josée Bisailon
- Inspired by a Rumi quotation: "Raise your words, not your voice. It is rain that grows flowers, not thunder."
- Powerful message of civil discourse and compassion-based problem-solving

Also by Bree Galbraith  
and Josée Bisailon



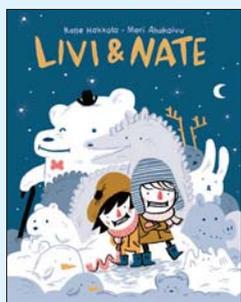
HC • \$18.95 CDN / \$16.95 US  
ISBN 978-1-77147-170-1

An OLA Blue Spruce nominee, 2018

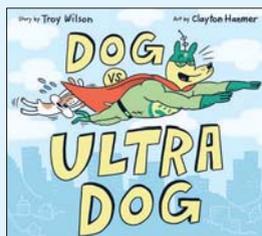
## Also Recommended



HC • \$18.95 CDN / \$16.95 US  
ISBN 978-1-77147-332-3



HC • \$18.95 CDN / \$16.95 US  
ISBN 978-1-77147-372-9



HC • \$19.95 CDN / \$17.95 US  
ISBN 978-1-77147-318-7



# An adventure story told in two languages



## Pierre & Paul: Avalanche!

Written by Caroline Adderson  
Illustrated by Alice Carter

Pierre and Paul are neighbors, friends, and explorers. Pierre speaks French and Paul speaks English, but that doesn't stop them from sharing their adventures. The boys imagine everyday situations into grand exploits—today, they are climbing the Himalayas!

To fuel their journey, they decide to make a mountainous sandwich. Pierre and Paul add ingredients until the sandwich staggers, topples, and... avalanche! Ham and *fromage*, *laitue* and cucumber jumble until they become a salad. The boys don't really like salad...but explorers have to be brave.

This story is told half in French and half in English, with simple phrasing and visual cues in the illustrations making the story easy for early readers to decode in both languages. Illustrations in a loose, colorful style make this vocabulary-learning tool an engaging story of friendship and imagination.



CAROLINE ADDERSON is an internationally published, award-winning author of books for readers of all ages. Her children's books have won the Diamond Willow Award, the Sheila Egoff Award, and the Chocolate Lily Award. Her books have also been nominated for various awards, including the Manitoba Young Readers' Choice Award, the Hackmatack Children's Choice Book Award, and the Rocky Mountain Book Award. She lives in Vancouver, British Columbia.

ALICE CARTER is an Ottawa-based illustrator and writer. She graduated from the Ontario College of Art and Design in Toronto. Alice is a member of the Society of Children's Book Writers and Illustrators and CANSCAIP. She is inspired by people-watching, music, and nature.

March 2020

32 PAGES • 8 x 11 • AGES 5–8

HC • \$18.95 CDN / \$16.95 US

ISBN 978-1-77147-327-9



CURRICULUM

Language Arts: Reading Comprehension

READING LEVELS

Grade: PreK–3

Fountas & Pinnell: K

Reading Recovery: 18

Lexile® Measure: 460L

COMMON CORE

RL.2, L.2, RF.2, SL.2, W.2

Character Development

Diversity

## Key Features

- Told half in French and half in English, switching continuously between both languages
- Simple text and contextual clues make the story easy to understand for emergent readers in both languages
- Excellent resource for French-immersion students
- First book in a series

April 2020

240 PAGES • 5.5 x 8 • AGES 8–12

PB • \$10.95 CDN / \$8.95 US

ISBN 978-1-77147-412-2



Also Available in Hardcover

HC • \$18.95 CDN / \$16.95 US

ISBN 978-1-77147-305-7

CURRICULUM

Language Arts: Reading Comprehension

READING LEVELS

Grade: 2–6

Fountas & Pinnell: R

Lexile® Measure: 790L

COMMON CORE

RF.4, L.4, SL.4, RL.4, W.4

Character Development

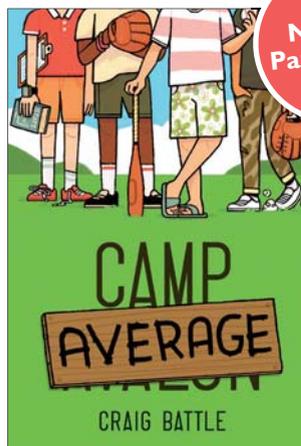
## Key Features

- First in the new middle-grade Camp Average novel series
- Engaging story line for reluctant readers
- Great summer reading selection
- Authored by a sports writer and packed with sports detail

★ “Hilarious, irreverent, and timely, highly recommended for sports fans, summer-camp alums, and preteen-year survivors.”

— *Kirkus* (starred review)

## In the first book of the series, campers fight to lose like never before



### Camp Average

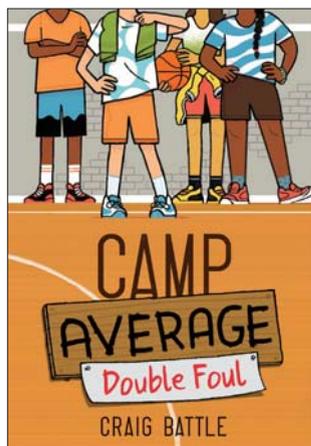
Written by Craig Battle

A group of 11-year-olds arrives to spend six weeks playing sports at Camp Avalon—which they affectionately call Camp Average—because they never win at any sport. And that’s the way they like it. But this summer, new camp director Winston—who *hates* losing—has some hyper-competitive ideas about how to improve their performance, whether they want to or not!

Led by main character Mack and his friend Andre, the boys of Cabin 10 decide to reclaim their summer and revolt by losing spectacularly at every game they play, and especially at the big baseball tournament coming up with three nearby camps.

In a story full of plotting, planning, and plenty of push-ups, it’s a full-court press on losing for the campers, strategic play-by-play for the camp director, and great teamwork on all sides. Who will come out on top? The first book in the Camp Average series is a smart, funny summer read featuring a diverse group of realistic characters and a winning story line.

# A new battle of wills heats up another summer at Camp Average



## Camp Average: Double Foul

Written by Craig Battle

It's a new summer at Camp Avalon—which Mack and his friends still affectionately call Camp Average. After last season's big baseball victory, camp director Winston wants to continue the winning streak. So he's launched a competitive program for elite athletes—including a new group of girl campers.

When Winston enters his charges in a high-stakes basketball tournament, Mack opts out in favor of other, less competitive activities. But Mack starts to suspect he's being played, as one by one, his favorite camp activities all get closed for repairs.

Meanwhile, Winston pits boys against girls in a twisted attempt to win. To undermine Winston's hypercompetitive scheme once again, Mack creates a plan of his own—but it means he needs to secretly sabotage both the boys' and girls' teams. Will Mack match wits with Winston and save the camp from the diabolical director's clutches once and for all? Or will Mack's own mischief be exposed—and lose him his summer *and* his friends? The second Camp Average book is a fast-paced and funny addition to this all-star series.

CRAIG BATTLE has worked as a journalist, coach, and camp counselor. He is the former editor of OWL magazine, the former owner of a pretty solid jump shot, and the author of six books for middle-grade readers. Now an editor of stories big and small at Sportsnet.ca, Craig lives in Toronto with his wife and son.

April 2020

272 PAGES • 5.5 x 8 • AGES 8–12

HC • \$19.95 CDN / \$16.95 US

ISBN 978-1-77147-309-5



CURRICULUM

**Language Arts:** Reading Comprehension

READING LEVELS

Grade: 2–6

Fountas & Pinnell: R

Lexile® Measure: 790L

COMMON CORE

RF.4, L.4, SL.4, RL.4, W.4

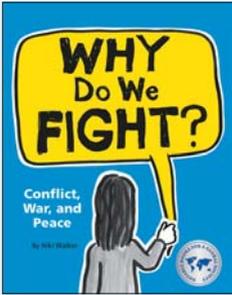
Character Development

## Key Features

- Second book in the Camp Average series
- Great summer reading selection
- Action-packed plot focused on basketball will engage sports fans

Email  
[owlkids@owlkids.com](mailto:owlkids@owlkids.com)  
 to request an ARC  
 while quantities  
 last!

## Also Recommended



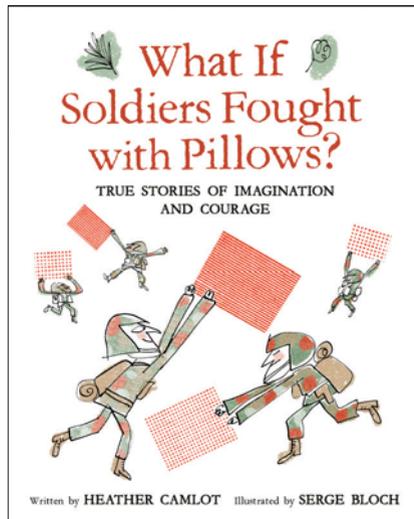
HC • \$16.95 CDN / \$16.95 US  
 ISBN 978-1-926973-86-9  
 PB • \$14.95 CDN / \$14.95 US  
 ISBN 978-1-77147-354-5

★ “An exemplary study of the reasons disagreements arise and how they can be addressed.”  
 — *Publishers Weekly* (starred review)

- An ILA Notable Book for a Global Society
- A Bank Street College of Education Best Book of 2013
- Shortlisted for the OLA Red Maple Award
- A Canadian Children’s Book Centre Best Book for Kids and Teens

# A big-idea nonfiction book that invites readers to dream





## What If Soldiers Fought with Pillows? True Stories of Imagination and Courage

Written by Heather Camlot

Illustrated by Serge Bloch

What if the impossible were actually possible? What if we turned our dreams into action? What if our imagination could help solve real-world crises, like war, famine, and human rights violations?

Through a series of seemingly whimsical questions, this middle-grade nonfiction book introduces readers to people and organizations that are subverting violence, war, and totalitarian power. What if soldiers refused to carry weapons? What if fighter pilots dropped seeds instead of bombs? What if music could be a creative force for democracy? None of these ideas are impossible—in fact, they are all true historical examples of ideas that have been put into action.

Accessible, engaging text introduces a different question and example on each spread. Evocative conceptual illustrations provide a light-hearted reminder of the power of imagination. This timely book encourages readers to think critically and dare to ask big questions, which might just change the world.

As a writer, editor, and translator, HEATHER CAMLOT has asked “what if?” countless times over her 20-year career. Her first middle-grade novel, *Clutch*, was named one of *Kirkus Reviews*’ Best Middle-Grade Historical Fiction of 2017 and was a 2018 Skipping Stones Honor Award winner. Heather lives in Toronto, Ontario, with her family.

Renowned French illustrator SERGE BLOCH has illustrated over three hundred books, and his work regularly appears in publications such as *The New York Times*, *The Washington Post*, and *TIME* magazine. His many awards include a Society of Illustrators Gold Medal, France’s Baobab Award, and the Bologna Ragazzi Award. Serge splits his time between Paris and New York City.

March 2020

40 PAGES • 8.5 × 10.5 • AGES 8–12

HC • \$19.95 CDN / \$18.95 US

ISBN 978-1-77147-362-0



CURRICULUM

**History, Social Studies & Geography:**  
Local & Global Community; Global Awareness;  
Citizenship; Current and Recent Affairs; Civics

READING LEVELS

Grade: 4+

Fountas & Pinnell: W

Lexile® Measure: 1110L

COMMON CORE

RI.6, L.6, SL.6, W.6

Inquiry

Social - Emotional Learning

Character Development

Diversity

## Key Features

- Speaks to a generation of young people growing up in the wake of youth-activist moments
- Fosters a spirit of inquiry and open-mindedness
- Back matter includes a glossary, notes, and selected sources
- Illustrated by acclaimed artist Serge Bloch

March 2020

56 PAGES • 10.25 x 10.25 • AGES 9–12

HC • \$19.95 CDN / \$18.95 US

ISBN 978-1-77147-389-7



## CURRICULUM

**Language Arts:** Reading Comprehension

**Science:** Earth Sciences, Life Systems; Environment

**Social Studies:** Global Issues

## READING LEVELS

Grade: 3–6

Fountas & Pinnell: T

Lexile® Measure: 1010L

## COMMON CORE

L.5, W.5, SL.5, RF.5, RI.5

## NEXT GENERATION

SCIENCE STANDARDS

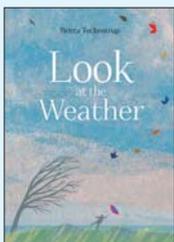
5-PS.1, 5-PS.3, 5-LS.1, 5-LS.2, 5-ESS.2, 5-ESS.3

Inquiry STEM

## Key Features

- A broad look at water, air, soil, energy, and climate that pulls together and distills a wide range of information
- Packed with fascinating facts and figures
- Has a positive tone of protecting the planet against climate change

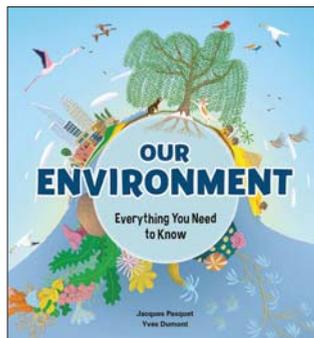
## Also Recommended



HC • \$21.95 CDN / \$19.95 US

ISBN 978-1-77147-286-9

# A back-to-basics overview of our environment



## Our Environment: Everything You Need to Know

Written by Jacques Pasquet

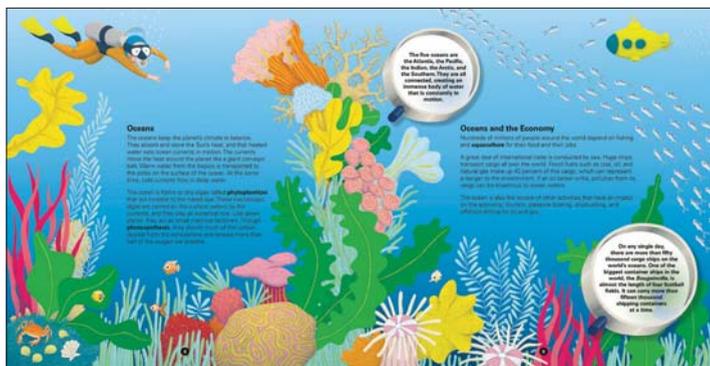
Illustrated by Yves Dumont

The environment is an essential but sometimes tough and weighty concept to grasp. This engaging nonfiction book takes readers back to the basics, offering an accessible overview of

what makes up our environment, how those parts work, and why they matter. Divided into five sections—water, air, soil, energy, and climate—the book uses facts, figures, and simple language to give an overarching survey of our environment.

Questions run throughout the text, creating a spirit of inquiry. Where does the water we use every day come from? What is the atmosphere? How does pollution affect soil? What is renewable energy? What influences climate? And how do we protect our planet for the future?

With an appealing design and simple drawings and diagrams to support comprehension, this book takes a positive spin on the environment, reinforcing the importance of taking care of each element. Informational text features include a table of contents, sidebars, diagrams, index, and glossary.



JACQUES PASQUET is a French writer, storyteller, and performer who has written many books for both kids and adults, including *My Wounded Island*, a picture book about climate change in the Arctic. He was a lecturer in the Department of Literary Studies at the Université du Québec à Montréal for many years. He lives in Montreal, Quebec.

Born in France, YVES DUMONT graduated from the School of Graphic Research (ERG) in Brussels in 1999, and then moved to Quebec in 2008 to pursue his art. He has illustrated more than fifty books for children. He lives and works in Montreal, Quebec.

# How—and why—do trends go viral?



## Trending: How and Why Stuff Gets Popular

Written by Kira Vermond  
Illustrated by Clayton Hanmer

Fads and trends: How do they start? Why do they spread? And how deep can their impact be? Although trends might seem trivial, if you dig deeper, you'll find that our desire to chase

the next big thing can have an even bigger impact than expected.

Established middle-grade author Kira Vermond and cartoonist Clayton Hanmer team up in this fun and accessible nonfiction look at fads. In four short chapters, the book explores what a fad is, how the latest crazes catch on, and what makes us jump on the bandwagon. Finally, it looks at the fascinating and even frightening effects of fads both modern and historic. Who knew the beaver pelt craze in 17th century Europe would change ecosystems, start wars, and disrupt life as people knew it?

Comic-strip illustrations, an upbeat tone, and reader-friendly text make this a fun and timely tool for young readers who are building critical-thinking skills in the age of fake news and a world gone viral.



KIRA VERMOND is an award-winning writer with over 1,500 articles to her name. She is a frequent contributor to the *Globe and Mail* and *Chatelaine*, and is the author of *Why We Live Where We Live*, which won the Norma Fleck Award, and *Half-Truths and Brazen Lies*. She lives in Guelph, Ontario.

CLAYTON HANMER (aka CTON) is an illustrator whose energetic comic style has given him a broad range of clients from *The New York Times* to *National Geographic Kids*. He has illustrated several children's books and is the creator of "What a Hoot," a regular comic in *OWL* magazine. Clayton lives in Toronto with his super awesome wife, amazing daughter, and weird cat named Graphite.

March 2020  
48 PAGES • 8.5 x 9.5 • Ages 8–12  
HC • \$19.95 CDN / \$17.95 US  
ISBN 978-1-77147-325-5



CURRICULUM  
**Language Arts:** Reading; Media Literacy; Social Studies

READING LEVELS  
Grade: 3–7  
Fountas & Pinnell: U  
Lexile® Measure: 880L

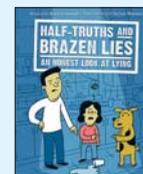
COMMON CORE  
RF.5, L.5, RI.5, W.5, SL.5

**Inquiry**    **Social - Emotional Learning**

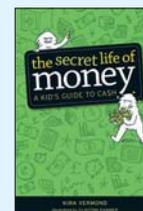
### Key Features

- New from award-winning middle-grade team Kira Vermond and Clayton Hanmer
- Timely in the age of viral content and fake news
- Encourages critical thinking and media literacy
- Includes index and selected bibliography

Also by Kira Vermond and Clayton Hanmer



HC • \$18.95 CDN / \$16.95 US  
ISBN 978-1-77147-146-6



PB • \$14.95 CDN / \$14.95 US  
ISBN 978-1-926973-18-0

March 2020

160 PAGES • 5.5 x 7.25 • AGES 7–10

PB • \$11.95 CDN / \$9.95 US

ISBN 978-1-77147-400-9



Also Available in Hardcover

HC • \$16.95 CDN / \$15.95 US

ISBN 978-1-77147-306-4

CURRICULUM

Language Arts: Reading Comprehension

READING LEVELS

Grade: K-5

Fountas & Pinnell: O

Lexile® Measure: 550L

COMMON CORE

W.3, SL.3, L.3, RL.3, RF.3

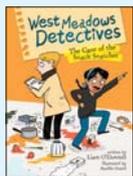
Inquiry

Diversity

## Key Features

- Third and final book in the West Meadows Detectives series
- Features a character on the autism spectrum and another with ADHD
- Celebrates neurodiversity

## Also in This Series



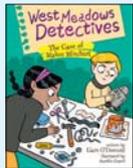
1

HC • \$18.95 CDN / \$16.95 US

ISBN 978-1-77147-069-8

PB • \$11.95 CDN / \$9.95 US

ISBN 978-1-77147-345-3



2

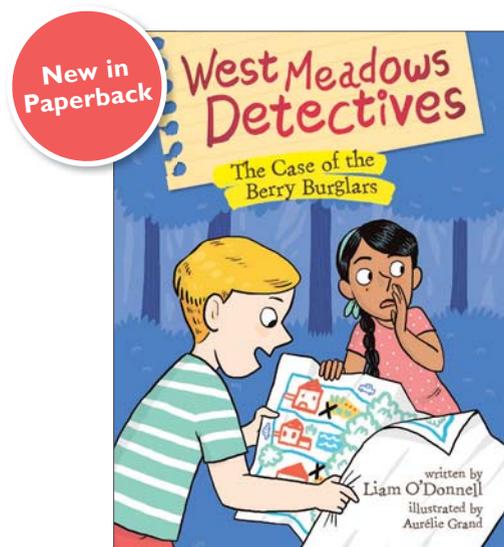
HC • \$16.95 CDN / \$15.95 US

ISBN 978-1-77147-070-4

PB • \$11.95 CDN / \$9.95 US

ISBN 978-1-77147-385-9

# In the third West Meadows mystery, Myron and friends solve a fruit fiasco



## West Meadows Detectives: The Case of the Berry Burglars

Written by Liam O'Donnell • Illustrated by Aurélie Grand

Myron, the third-grade detective who loves logic, facts, and solving mysteries, gets the chance to crack a third case when he finds out the school garden has been trampled and the strawberry plants are missing. When neighborhood gardens are also found short of strawberries, Myron and his friends are on the case.

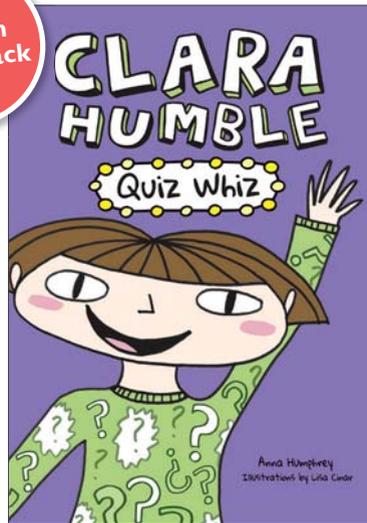
Myron's unique perspective from the autism spectrum and his eye for detail make him a top-notch sleuth. Similarly, the other neurodiverse kids in his resource room have unique talents that come in handy. Tech-lover Glitch's satellite image-plotting skills, artsy Jordan's mould-making abilities, and super-social Hajrah's interview tactics come together to track down the culprits. Black-and-white spot illustrations accompany the text in the final West Meadows Detectives mystery, a fun and accessible page-turner for independent readers.

LIAM O'DONNELL is an award-winning author and educator who has created over 40 graphic novels and books for reluctant readers. He lives in London, Ontario.

AURÉLIE GRAND graduated from Capilano University in British Columbia and now works as an illustrator in Montreal, Quebec.

# Clara and Bradley’s friendship is put to the test when they compete on a game show

**New in Paperback**



2

## Clara Humble: Quiz Whiz

Written by Anna Humphrey • Illustrated by Lisa Cinar

Clara Humble, the winsome and über-confident fourth-grader who’s been described as “Ramona Quimby meets Timmy Failure,” is back for a second adventure. When Clara and her best friend, Bradley, discover their favorite game show, *Smarty Pants*—a mix of trivia and obstacle course stunts—is recruiting in their area, Clara is sure she’ll be chosen. Fame and game show glory will be hers...with Bradley’s help, of course.

Things get complicated when Bradley also earns a contestant spot on the show, and the friends are pitted against each other. It escalates into an epic schoolyard battle between boys and girls, and not everyone is playing fair. Will Clara and Bradley’s friendship survive? Between the tension, sabotage, shenanigans, and Clara’s comics featuring her alter ego @Cat, this is a flat-out funny, fast-paced read.

ANNA HUMPHREY is the author of the Clara Humble series, the Megabat series, and other novels for middle-grade and young adult readers. Anna lives with her family in Kitchener, Ontario.

LISA CINAR is an illustrator and owner of the online shop Draw Me a Lion. She has written and illustrated several picture books in addition to the Clara Humble series. Lisa lives in Vancouver, British Columbia.

March 2020

240 PAGES • 5.5 x 8 • AGES 8–12

PB • \$12.95 CDN / \$10.95 US

ISBN 978-1-77147-401-6



Also Available in Hardcover

HC • \$17.95 CDN / \$14.95 US

ISBN 978-1-77147-215-9

CURRICULUM

**Language Arts:** Reading Comprehension

READING LEVELS

Grade: 3-7

Fountas & Pinnell: R

Lexile® Measure: 820L

COMMON CORE

W.4, SL.4, RF.4, L.4, RL.4

Character Development

## Key Features

- Second book in the middle-grade Clara Humble series
- Features a confident and irresistibly funny, relatable female protagonist
- Clara’s comic line drawings add context and laugh-out-loud humor

## Also in This Series



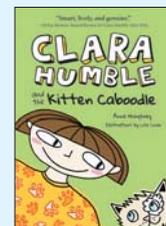
1

HC • \$16.95 CDN / \$13.95 US

ISBN 978-1-77147-147-3

PB • \$12.95 CDN / \$10.95 US

ISBN 978-1-77147-386-6



3

HC • \$17.95 CDN / \$15.95 US

ISBN 978-1-77147-241-8

March 2020

144 PAGES • 5.5 x 8 • AGES 9+

PB • \$11.95 CDN / \$9.95 US

ISBN 978-1-77147-396-5



Also Available in Hardcover

HC • \$18.95 CDN / \$16.95 US

ISBN 978-1-926973-62-3

### CURRICULUM

**Social Studies:** World War II; Holocaust; History; Cultures and Societies

### READING LEVELS

Grade: 6+

Fountas & Pinnell: X

Lexile® Measure: 580L

### COMMON CORE

RI.6, RI.7

Character Development

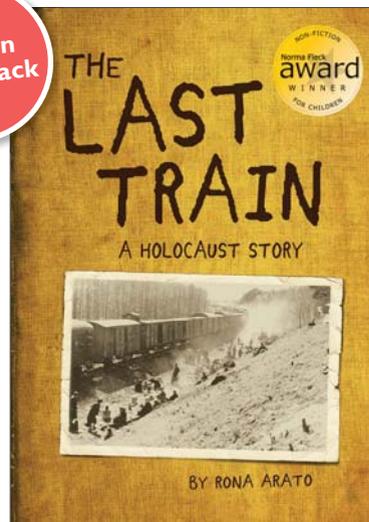
Diversity

## Key Features

- The true survival story of a Hungarian Jewish family during World War II
- Written by Rona Arato, wife of Paul, the youngest member of the family in the novel
- Celebrates the American soldiers of the 30th division of the 9th Army, who liberated Paul's train
- Includes photographs taken by the soldiers on the day of liberation, from the Aratos' personal albums and the archives of the US Holocaust Museum

# A harrowing true WWII story of surviving the Nazi occupation

New in  
Paperback



## The Last Train: A Holocaust Story

Written by Rona Arato

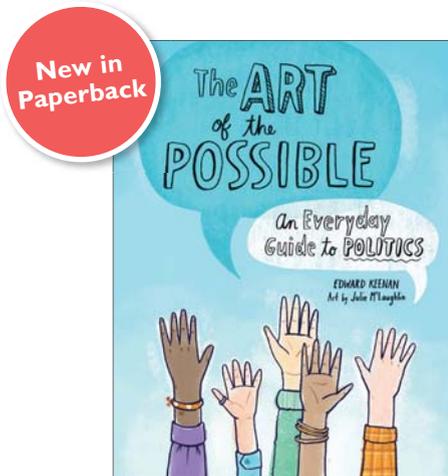
As a young boy living in Hungary in 1944, Paul Auslander's world was torn apart when the Nazis arrived in his hometown. His family endured unimaginable atrocities, forced from ghetto to concentration camp, and finally, being stranded with thousands of other Jews on a freight train...until an incredible coincidence gave them a chance at survival.

Written by Paul's wife, *The Last Train* is a true story about one family's brave journey through the horrors of the Holocaust, the moment of good fortune that spared their lives, and Paul's rediscovery, sixty years later, of the train and the soldiers who saved him.

- Winner, Norma Fleck Award for Canadian Children's Non-Fiction
- Winner, Ontario Library Association Red Maple Non-Fiction Award
- Winner, British Columbia Library Association Red Cedar Book Award
- Winner, Alberta Children's Choice Rocky Mountain Book Award
- Winner, Saskatchewan Diamond Willow Award
- Shortlisted, Ontario Library Association Golden Oak Award
- A Canadian Children's Book Centre Best Book for Kids and Teens

RONA ARATO is an award-winning author with a strong interest in human rights. *The Last Train* is the story of her husband Paul's Holocaust experiences and the twist of fate that reunited him, 67 years after liberation, with the American soldiers who saved his life. She lives in Toronto, Ontario, where she is a frequent presenter in schools and community organizations.

# A youthful overview of politics and the political process



## The Art of the Possible: An Everyday Guide to Politics

Written by Edward Keenan • Illustrated by Julie McLaughlin

We all know what a politician looks like, right? They're old people who wear suits and make long, boring speeches full of indecipherable words. Not so fast! As *The Art of the Possible* explains, everyone is a politician—even young people who aren't yet eligible to vote. We all have influence over how politics function.

But what are politics and why do we need them? This book answers the universal query in nine short chapters that explain everything from why we form societies and the basic types of governments to the power of public opinion, methods of rhetoric, and the reasons why politicians “lie.”

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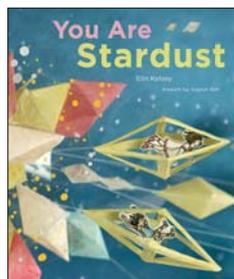
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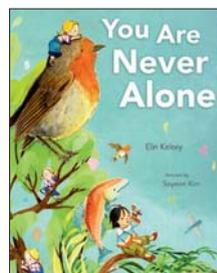
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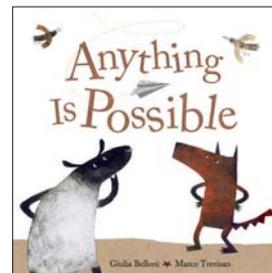
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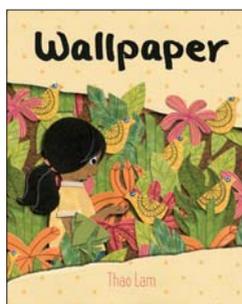


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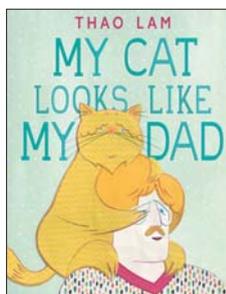


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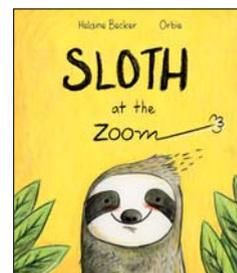
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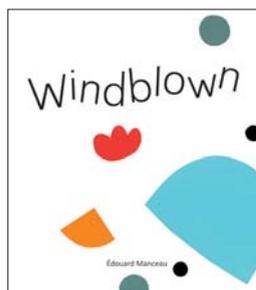


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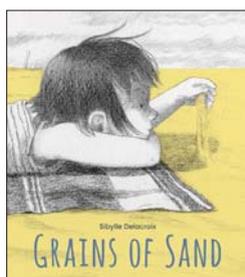


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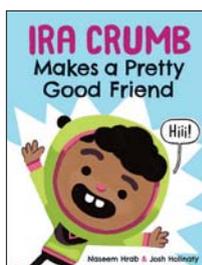
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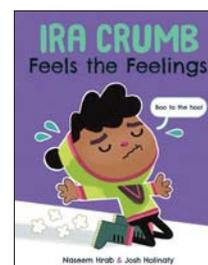
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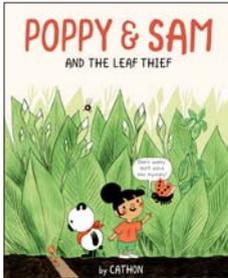
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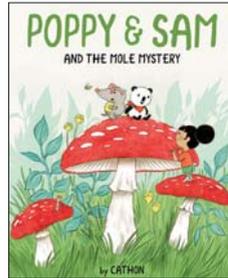
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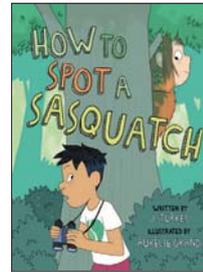
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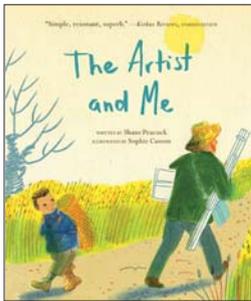
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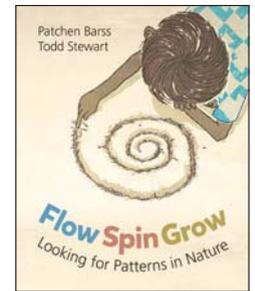


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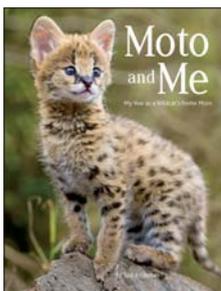


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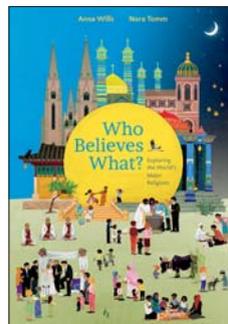
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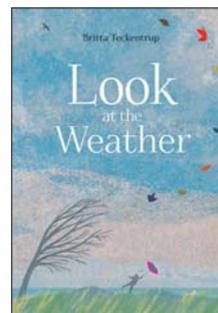
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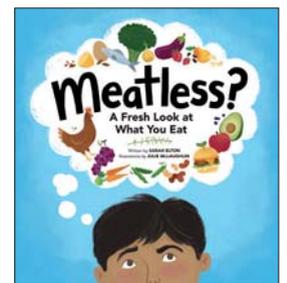
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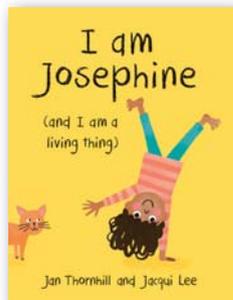


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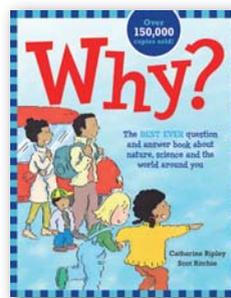
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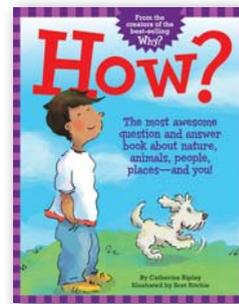
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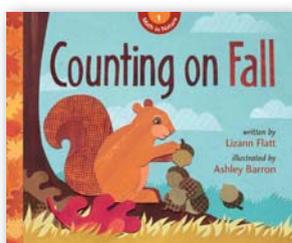
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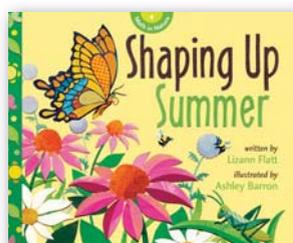
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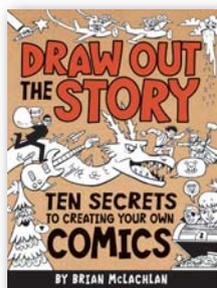
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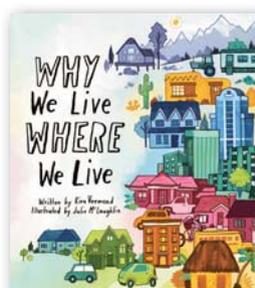
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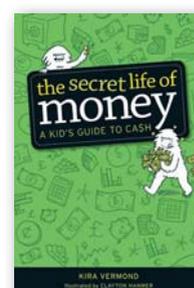
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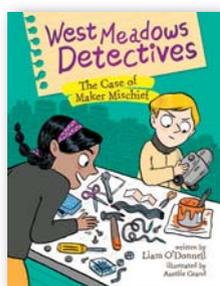
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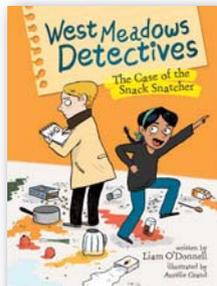
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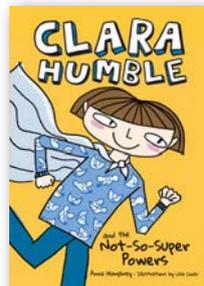
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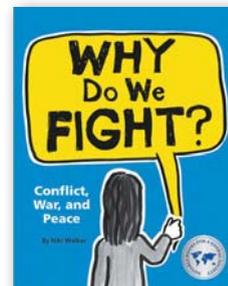
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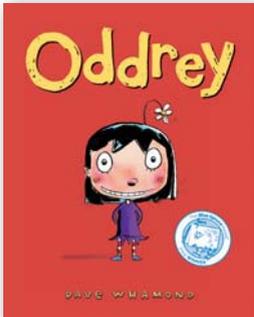
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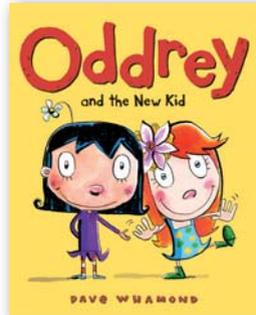
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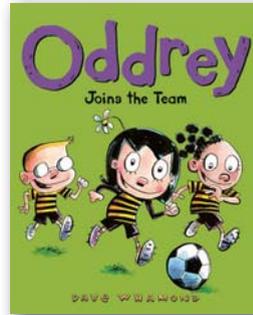
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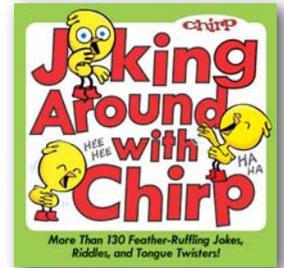
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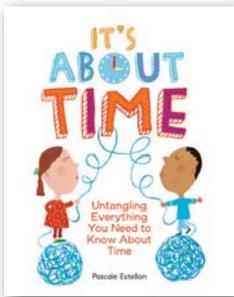
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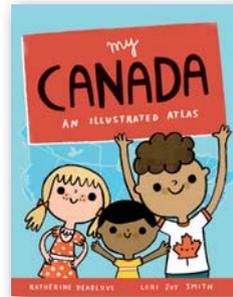
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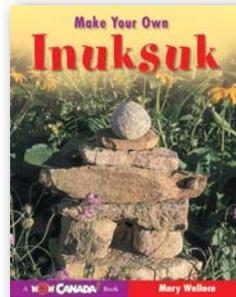
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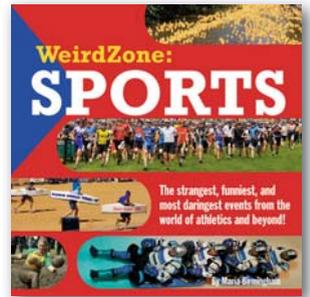
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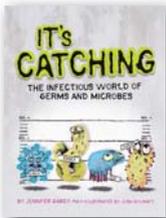
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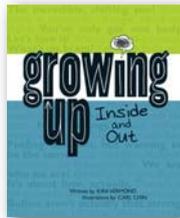
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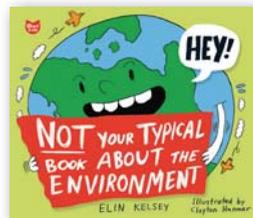
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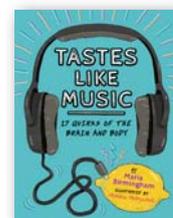
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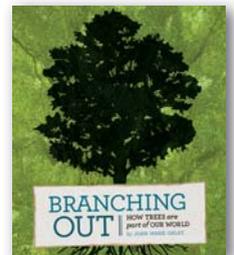
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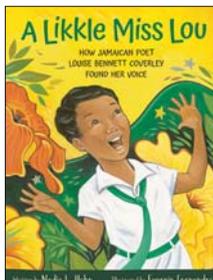


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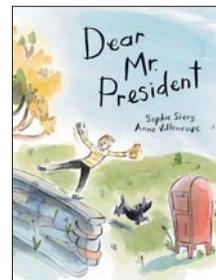
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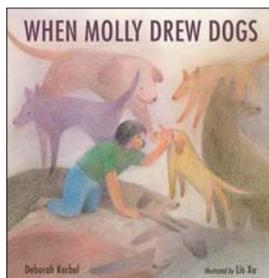
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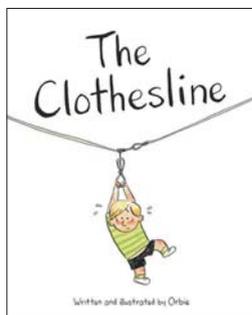
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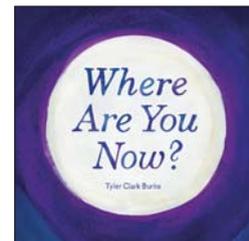
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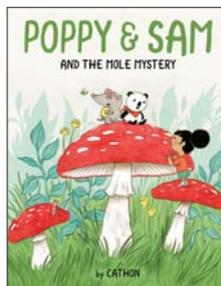
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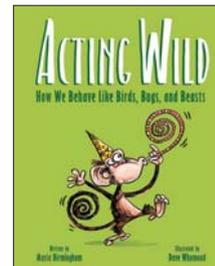
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