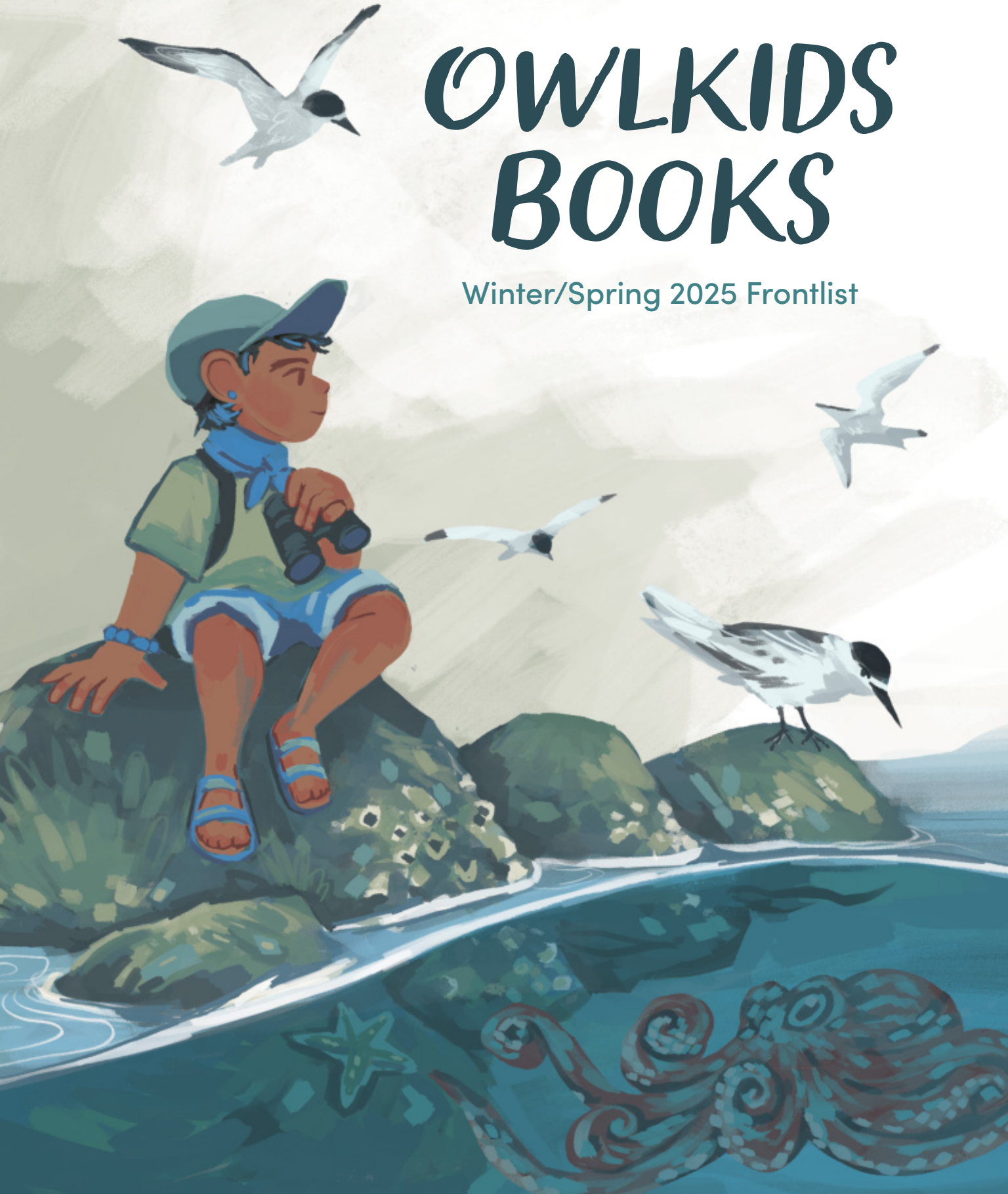


# OWLKIDS BOOKS

Winter/Spring 2025 Frontlist



## New in Hardcover

### Winter 2025

Bunny Made Tea	3
Raven's Ribbons	4
Patty Dreams	6
The Eidi Bag	8
What Makes a Bird?	10
Hello, Daisy!	11

### Spring 2025

I Need Pants!	12
Hugs Are (Not) for Everybody!	14
Ready, Set, Mango!	16
Hannah and the Wrong Note	17
What If Marty Doesn't Like My Party?	18
Otis & Peanut Find a Way	20
The Jellyfish Bus	22
Chomp-O-Rama	24
Dogs vs. Humans	25

## New Formats

The Weird Sisters: A Robin, a Ribbon, and a Lawnmower	26
Bee & Flea and the Puddle Problem	27

Mentor Texts	28
--------------	----

Curriculum Connections	29
------------------------	----

Recent Releases	30
-----------------	----

Contact Info	31
--------------	----



## WE'VE ADDED A NEW SEASON!

For the past decade, Owlkids Books has been publishing great stories that kids want to pick up, and that librarians, teachers, and parents want to recommend. Our books have received lots of attention, including starred reviews, state and provincial award nominations, and selection for curriculum programs. Due to this success, **we've decided to introduce a Winter list with titles publishing in January and February 2025.** You'll find our Winter 2025 books listed at the beginning of this catalogue, followed by our Spring 2025 books.

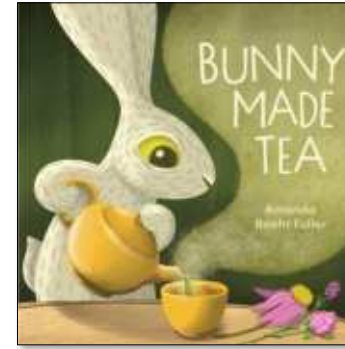
## BOOKS IN THE CLASSROOM

Owlkids Books recently collaborated with an **educational consultant** to review our books. During the process, we gained new insights into the power of children's books and how they can be used in the classroom. For instance, we learned how important it is to use mentor texts to teach literacy skills and achieve specific curricular outcomes in engaging ways.

We include a **variety of leveling information and curriculum connections** for all our books in this catalog. It is also our first catalog to include two pages of specific curriculum connections for teachers and librarians. **Mentor Text suggestions can be found on page 28 and Curriculum Connections are on page 29.**

While philosophies and approaches may vary across school districts, we hope that **educators, administrators, and librarians** will be inspired to use our stories to spark conversation and reflection among their students.

## A cozy story about sharing, showing gratitude, and a fondness for tea



### Bunny Made Tea

Written and illustrated by Amanda Baehr Fuller

One soggy spring morning, Bunny decides to make a cup of tea. Before they can take a sip, Opossum arrives for an impromptu visit. Like a good host, Bunny kindly offers the unexpected guest their tea and gathers ingredients to brew another cup. But just as they're settling in to enjoy it, Opossum returns with their

babies in tow. They all want tea too! Ingredients are gathered, and more tea is made—enough for Opossum's babies, but not enough for Bunny. Disappointed, Bunny goes to bed without tea, until a knock at the door the next morning reveals their hospitality has been repaid: one of Opossum's babies has made tea for Bunny in return!

With charming illustrations, simple text, and hilariously expressive characters, this cozy tale invites readers to practice generosity and meet acts of kindness with gratitude.



AMANDA BAEHR FULLER is an author/illustrator currently creating art for animated shows, including work for Nickelodeon, Scholastic, Sesame Workshop, Cartoon Network, and PBS Kids. She has been published in *Weekly Reader Writing* and *Scholastic Scope* magazines, and has sold over 2300 pieces of original art from her Etsy shop, MamaRobot. *Bunny Made Tea* is her debut picture book.

## Picture Books

### Winter

#### February 2025

32 PAGES • 9 x 9 • AGES 3–6

HC • \$22.95 CDN / \$18.95 US

ISBN 978-1-77147-681-2



CURRICULUM CONNECTIONS

**Social-Emotional Learning:**  
Social Awareness; Self-Awareness  
**Character Education:** Kindness;  
Hospitality; Boundaries

READING LEVELS

Grade: I+  
Fountas & Pinnell: D  
Reading Recovery: 5  
Lexile® Measure: AD50L

COMMON CORE

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

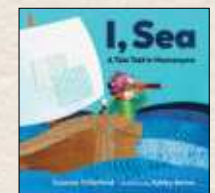
Character Development

Social-Emotional Learning

### Key Features

- Debut picture book from Amanda Baehr Fuller, whose work has appeared in animated shows from Nickelodeon, Scholastic, Sesame Workshop, Cartoon Network, and PBS Kids
- Social-emotional learning connections to generosity and recognizing the feelings of others
- Sparks discussion about showing kindness, personal boundaries, and hospitality

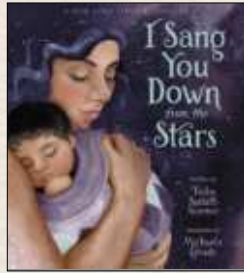
### Also Recommended



HC • \$21.95 CDN / \$18.95 US

ISBN 978-1-77147-499-3

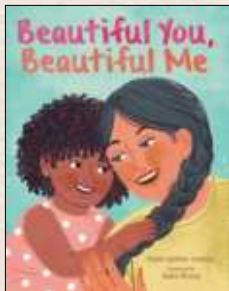
Also by Tasha Spillett



HC • \$19.95 CDN  
CANADIAN RIGHTS ONLY  
ISBN 978-1-77147-408-5

- ★ Bookpage
- ★ Kirkus
- ★ Publishers Weekly
- ★ School Library Journal
- ★ Shelf Awareness

- A *New York Times*, Amazon.ca, and CBC Books bestseller
- Named a Best Book of 2021 by CBC, Chicago Public Library, Kirkus, and Shelf Awareness



HC • \$19.95 CDN / \$18.95 US  
ISBN 978-1-77147-452-8

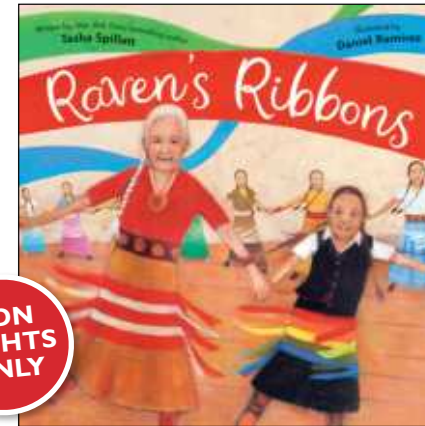
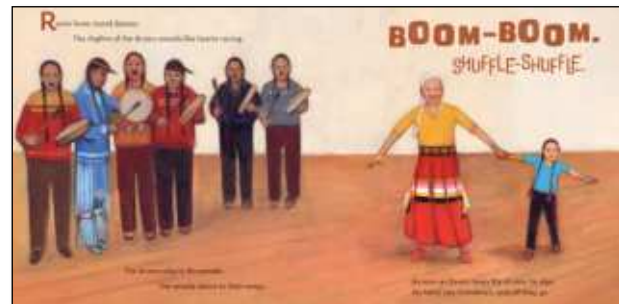
- ★ Kirkus
- ★ Quill & Quire

Also Recommended



HC • \$21.95 CDN / \$18.95 US  
ISBN 978-1-77147-515-0

## A joyous celebration of gender expression through an Indigenous lens, by *New York Times* bestselling author Tasha Spillett and illustrator Daniel Ramirez



### Raven's Ribbons

Written by Tasha Spillett • Illustrated by Daniel Ramirez

Raven loves round dances. The drums sing to the people, and the people dance to their songs. Raven especially loves dancing with his grandma, sidestepping to the rhythm of the drums. His favorite part of all is watching the ribbon skirts swirl like rainbows.

“Nohkum, do you think a boy could wear a ribbon skirt?” Raven asks his grandmother one day. She tells him she has lived for a long time, but she has never seen it. That evening, she sews late into the night, and Raven awakes to a rainbow skirt of his own. “I’ve lived for a long time,” his grandma says, “and I’m lucky to see beautiful things that I’ve never seen before.” At the next dance, Raven wears the swirl of unique ribbons with pride.

With illustrations infused with joy and color, this moving intergenerational story celebrates self-expression, honoring traditions, and finding room for reinvention.

TASHA SPILLETT is a Cree and Trinidadian award-winning poet, scholar, and writer. She is the author of several books for young readers, including the *New York Times* bestselling picture book *I Sang You Down from the Stars* with art by Michaela Goade. She makes her home in Treaty 1 territory, Manitoba, where she lives with her family.

DANIEL RAMIREZ is a descendant of the Saginaw Chippewa Tribe of Michigan and a much-celebrated fine artist. His award-winning art has appeared in exhibitions and museums across the world, including at the National Museum of the American Indian in Washington, DC. He lives between Phoenix, Arizona, and Albuquerque, New Mexico.

January 2025  
32 PAGES • 9 x 9 • AGES 4-7  
CANADIAN RIGHTS ONLY  
HC • \$22.95 CDN  
ISBN 978-1-77147-566-2



CURRICULUM CONNECTIONS  
**Language Arts:** Realistic Fiction  
**Character Education:** Inclusivity; Kindness; Self-Respect; Respect  
**Social Studies:** Indigenous Peoples; Personal and Social Identity; Studying Past and Present Traditions; Community  
**Health and Physical Education:** Gender Expression

READING LEVELS  
Grade: 1+  
Fountas & Pinnell: G  
Reading Recovery: 11  
Lexile® Measure: AD480L

COMMON CORE  
RL.1, W.1, SL.1, L.1

Inquiry Diversity  
Character Development

#### Key Features

- New from Tasha Spillett, the *New York Times* bestselling author of *I Sang You Down From the Stars*, and celebrated fine artist Daniel Ramirez, a Two-Spirit Ojibwe elder and debut picture book illustrator
- Celebrates gender expression, inclusion, and respect
- Highlights a loving intergenerational relationship between a boy and his grandmother, who respects and supports her grandson’s dreams
- Author’s note provides additional context and invites opportunities to learn about round dances, and to discuss tradition and reinvention.

Also by Nadia L. Hohn



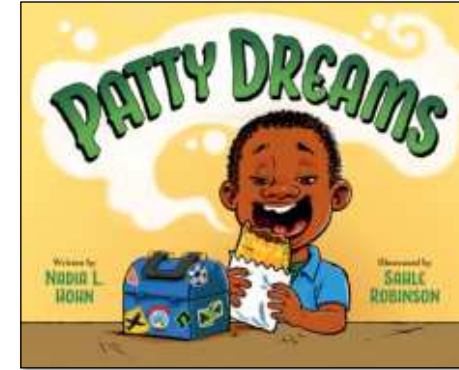
HC • \$19.95 CDN / \$18.95 US  
ISBN 978-1-77147-350-7

Also Recommended



HC • \$21.95 CDN / \$18.95 US  
ISBN 978-1-77147-463-4

## A tasty ode to family, culture, and Jamaican patties



## Patty Dreams

Written by Nadia L. Hohn • Illustrated by Sahle Robinson

At his home in Jamaica, August wakes up every morning to the delicious smell of patties. His parents' patty stand used to be popular, but Jamaica is changing. August's friends are leaving, and the patties aren't selling like they used to. Soon, it's his family's turn to say goodbye. Off they fly to cold, snowy Toronto, where August's father takes a job at a cookie factory and comes home too tired to make his beloved patties.

One night, after everyone is asleep, August tiptoes into the kitchen and tries to recreate his Daddy's recipe. His attempt inspires his father, and for the first time since they left Jamaica, August wakes up to the smell of fresh patties. Daddy's patties take off, and soon August's parents decide to open a new patty stand with a new name—"Patty Dreams".

Acclaimed author Nadia L. Hohn's rhythmic writing pays homage to a quintessential Jamaican delicacy and explores the experiences of immigrants, as well as the traditions that connect us. Vibrantly illustrated and rich in sensory details, this picture book is a warm, comforting reminder of the meaning of home.

NADIA L. HOHN is an award-winning educator, artist, and author of several books for children including *A Likkle Miss Lou* and the Malaika series, and editor and contributor to *The Antiracist Kitchen: 21 Stories (and Recipes)*. Nadia teaches elementary school and writing courses at post-secondary institutions in Toronto, Ontario, where she lives.

SAHLE ROBINSON loved drawing since he could hold a pencil. As a professional story artist and character concept designer for television and feature film animation, he's worked on popular productions such as *How to Train Your Dragon*, *Thomas the Tank Engine*, and *Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles*. Sahle was born and raised in Toronto, Ontario, where he lives and runs an art store providing art lessons and workshops with his wife and six children. This is Sahle's second published picture book.

January 2025

32 PAGES • 10 x 8 • AGES 4-7

HC • \$22.95 CDN / \$18.95 US

ISBN 978-1-77147-602-7



CURRICULUM CONNECTIONS

**Language Arts:** Realistic Fiction; Story Elements; Transformation; Dialogue

**Social Studies:** Immigration; Community

READING LEVELS

Grade: 1+

Fountas & Pinnell: H

Reading Recovery: 14

Lexile® Measure: AD620L

COMMON CORE

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

**Inquiry** **Diversity**

### Key Features

- Written by Nadia L. Hohn, author of *A Likkle Miss Lou* and the acclaimed Malaika series

- Illustrated by Sahle Robinson, a professional animator who has worked on *How to Train Your Dragon*, *Thomas the Tank Engine*, and *Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles*

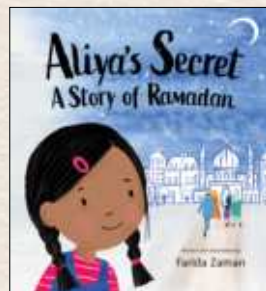
- An ode to the origin of Jamaican patties, filled with delicious descriptions of the food

- An immigration story about finding home in a new place and carrying on traditions

- Author's note discusses Nadia's Jamaican heritage and Toronto's Patty Wars

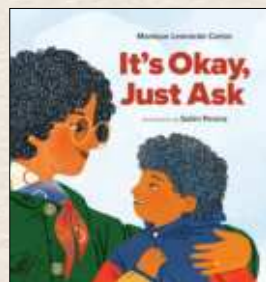
- Both author and illustrator found inspiration for this story in their shared Jamaican background and experiences living in Toronto

Also Recommended



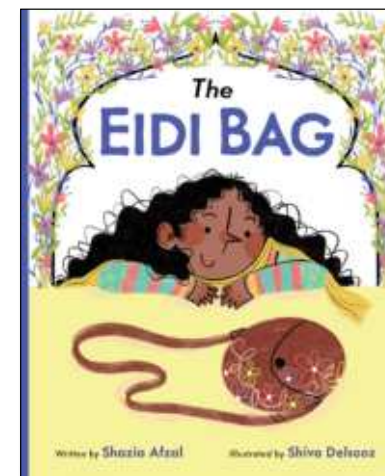
HC • \$21.95 CDN / \$18.95 US  
ISBN 978-1-77147-564-8

★ Booklist



HC • \$21.95 CDN / \$18.95 US  
ISBN 978-1-77147-614-0

## A little girl adapts to the Eid traditions of her new home



## The Eidi Bag

Written by Shazia Afzal • Illustrated by Shiva Delsooz

Today is Sarah's first Eid ul-Fitr in her new country. She's excited to celebrate the breaking of the fast with her loved ones and collect enough money in her Eidi bag to buy goodies for her friends and a new set of markers for herself. In Pakistan, after the Eid prayer at the masjid, Sarah's friends and family would fill her bag with coins. But in her new country, no one pays any attention to her waiting Eidi bag. Sarah is disappointed—this year's Eid celebration is nothing like she thought it would be.

Later that evening, friends and family arrive at Sarah's house to celebrate Eid. She greets them at the door, wearing her Eidi bag just in case. But instead of money, the guests come bearing other gifts: baklava, candies, flowers, and a new set of markers! Sarah still misses Pakistan, but she's delighted by the gift-giving traditions of her new home.

With lively, colorful illustrations and subtle humor, this cheerful holiday story gently explores an experience that kids who immigrate to new countries often face: adapting to new traditions. *The Eidi Bag* is an authentic look at Eid ul-Fitr through the eyes of a child, and a comforting tale about discovering joy in what is unfamiliar to us.

SHAZIA AFZAL has been teaching children for more than 20 years. She worked as an elementary school teacher, then as a Montessori teacher, and now runs her own Montessori school. Her favorite thing to do is read storybooks to children. She is a storyteller at heart and has published five children's books. She fasts in Ramadan, celebrates Eid ul-Fitr and has experienced it in four different countries including Canada. She loves walking and hiking in nature and lives with her family in Mississauga, Ontario.

SHIVA DELSOOZ is an Iranian-Canadian illustrator born and raised in Ontario, Canada. She graduated from Loyalist College with a diploma in animation. Shiva has been interested in drawing since early childhood. She grew up with severe hearing loss, and she often used art and music to cope with her situation. Shiva lives in Toronto, Ontario.

January 2025  
32 PAGES • 8.5 x 10 • AGES 4–7  
HC • \$22.95 CDN / \$18.95 US  
ISBN 978-1-77147-542-6



CURRICULUM CONNECTIONS  
**Language Arts:** Realistic Fiction; Story Elements  
**Character Education:** Responsibility; Cooperation; Positive Communication  
**Social Studies:** Holidays; Immigration; Studying Past and Present Traditions; Community  
**Social-Emotional Learning:** Self-Awareness; Self-Management; Social Awareness; Relationship Skills

READING LEVELS  
Grade: 2+  
Fountas & Pinnell: J  
Lexile® Measure: AD510L

COMMON CORE  
RL.1, W.1, SL.1, L.1

Diversity Social-Emotional Learning  
Character Development

### Key Features

- A child-focused look at Eid ul-Fitr based on the author's own childhood celebrations
- Explores themes of immigration and learning a new tradition
- Supports social-emotional learning and character education
- Author's note and glossary provide information about the holiday

February 2025

32 PAGES • 9 x 10 • AGES 5–8

HC • \$22.95 CDN / \$18.95 US

ISBN 978-1-77147-613-3



CURRICULUM CONNECTIONS

**Language Arts:** Realistic Fiction; Questioning

**Science:** Needs and Characteristics of Living Things

**Social-Emotional Learning:** Self-Awareness; Social Awareness

READING LEVELS

Grade: 1+

Fountas & Pinnell: E

Reading Recovery: 8

Lexile® Measure: 520L

COMMON CORE

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

Inquiry

STEM

### Key Features

- An inventive debut picture book from author Megan Pomper and illustrator Maia Hoekstra
- Supports social-emotional learning themes of self-awareness and social awareness
- Curriculum ties to animal adaptations and characteristics
- Features 34 species of birds, and three made up by the author
- Back matter includes a search-and-find activity

### Also Recommended



HC • \$19.95 CDN / \$17.95 US

ISBN 978-1-77147-439-9

## A whimsical, inquiry-based meditation on why a bird is a bird



### What Makes a Bird?

Written by Megan Pomper

Illustrated by Maia Hoekstra

In this evocative picture book, a child wanders through nature with one question: what makes a bird a bird? Is it feathers? What about a beak? Could it be wings? With each possible answer, more questions arise. If laying eggs makes a bird a bird, what about turtles, snakes, or fish? If flying is the

thing, are penguins still birds? Ultimately, the narrator concludes that a bird is a bird, with or without feathers, beaks, or the ability to fly!

Accompanied by gorgeous illustrations and subtle STEM content, this thoughtful picture book invites readers to think about what makes us human and how we categorize and identify the world around us.



MEGAN POMPER grew up on the west and east coasts of Canada and now resides in Brentwood Bay, British Columbia with her family. She has been an elementary school teacher since 2011 and earned her Master's of Education in 2017. Megan is passionate about writing stories that make children feel intelligent, empowered, and happy.

MAIA HOEKSTRA moved from the rural town of Dunnville, Ontario to Toronto in 2012 to study illustration at OCAD University. She resides in the city's west end with their cat, Magnus. From a very young age, creating art was actively apart of their life. Maia has always felt a profound fascination with biodiversity and fantasy.

March 2025

24 PAGES • 6.5 x 6.5 • AGES 0–3

BB • \$11.95 CDN / \$9.95 US

ISBN 978-1-77147-682-9



CURRICULUM CONNECTIONS

**Science:** Environmental Stewardship

READING LEVELS

Grade: 1+

Fountas & Pinnell: E

Reading Recovery: 7

COMMON CORE

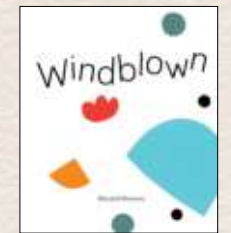
RL.1, W.1, SL.1, L.1

Inquiry

### Key Features

- Sweet, simple story provides an accessible entry point to introduce the youngest readers to caring for the environment
- Encourages respect for nature
- Subtly introduces the idea of taking responsibility for our actions, and being aware of how they affect other living things

### Also Recommended

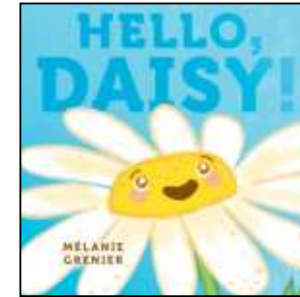


BB • \$12.95 CDN / \$9.95 US

ISBN 978-1-77147-670-6

★ Publishers Weekly

## A trapped flower becomes a gentle reminder about caring for the Earth



### Hello, Daisy!

Written and illustrated by Mélanie Grenier

“What a beautiful day!” Daisy greets the sun, the bee, the cloud, and the wind. All is sweet and cheerful and as it should be ... until the little flower notices something heading straight towards her. Suddenly, she is immersed in total darkness. Could it be nighttime already? Daisy is all alone in the dark, afraid and confused.

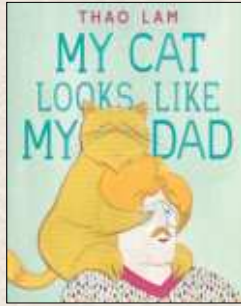
Readers solve the mystery when they see two children lifting a littered paper cup from the ground, revealing that it had been trapping Daisy beneath it. As quickly as it came, the darkness is gone! Daisy greets the light and the children with joy.

Filled with charming illustrations in vibrant colors, this board book is a gentle, positive way to introduce the idea of respecting our environment. With a light and playful touch, it also encourages taking responsibility in small, simple ways such as picking up our litter.



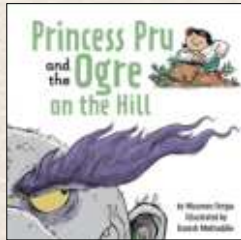
Originally from Stanstead-Est, MÉLANIE GRENIER lives in Victoriaville, Quebec and is a graphic designer and illustrator by trade. Since 2013, her writing style and illustrations have allowed her to explore the world of children's publishing both in Quebec and in Europe. Mélanie enjoys volunteering, going to the library, tending to her flowers, eating chocolate and sushi, checking Pinterest thirty times a day, and buying pencils.

Also Recommended

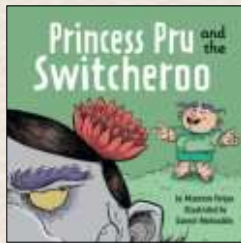


HC • \$19.95 CDN / \$18.95 US  
ISBN 978-1-77147-570-9

- ★ Booklist
- ★ School Library Journal

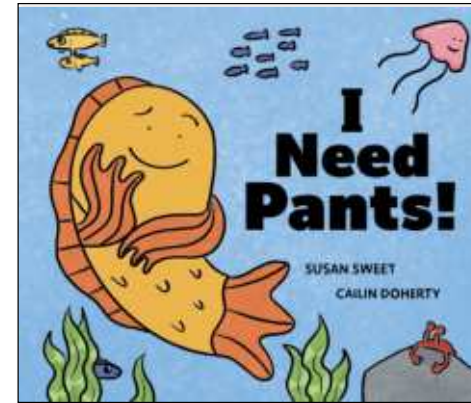


HC • \$21.95 CDN / \$18.95 US  
ISBN 978-1-77147-500-6



HC • \$21.95 CDN / \$18.95 US  
ISBN 978-1-77147-534-1

## A determined, fashion-forward fish sets an example of staying true to your wildest wishes



### I Need Pants!

Written by Susan Sweet • Illustrated by Cailin Doherty

Fish wishes for pants. But Octopus is quick to point out that Fish can't wear pants because fish don't have legs. When Fish wishes for other things—fuzzy bunny slippers, a pink tutu, a bow tie, earmuffs, and even a raincoat—Octopus shuts down all of these ideas too. "I know fish don't need to wear anything," Fish finally says. "But what if I want to?"

Octopus frets that other sea creatures might make fun of Fish. But once Fish finds a pair of pants and struts around the ocean in style, Octopus decides to try a few (four!) pairs on for size ... and comes to appreciate the joys of dressing just the way you want to!

Cheerful artwork and punchy, laugh-out-loud text celebrate following your heart—and supporting your friends in following theirs—in this uplifting ode to self-expression.

SUSAN SWEET is a clinical child psychologist with School Mental Health Ontario, a provincial team supporting all school boards in Ontario to enhance student mental health and well-being.

CAILIN DOHERTY is a Toronto-based illustrator. She specializes in 2D work with a focus on children's illustration. She has an ongoing feud with squirrels and raccoons living in her garage which inspires her quirky and funny character designs. *I Need Pants!* is her debut picture book.

April 2025

24 PAGES • 9.5 x 8 • AGES 3-7  
HC • \$22.95 CDN / \$18.95 US  
ISBN 978-1-77147-669-0



CURRICULUM CONNECTIONS  
**Language Arts:** Comedic Text; Dialogue; Voice  
**Social-Emotional Learning:** Self-Awareness; Self-Identity  
**Character Education:** Courage

READING LEVELS  
Grade: 1+  
Fountas & Pinnell: F  
Reading Recovery: 8  
Lexile® Measure: AD340L

COMMON CORE  
RL.1, W.1, SL.1, L.1

**Inquiry** **Character Development**

#### Key Features

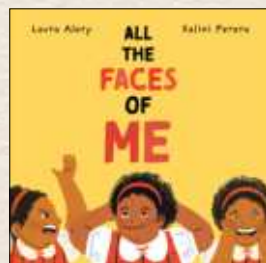
- Playfully celebrates self-expression and thinking outside the box
- Funny, lighthearted approach to an important message about following your heart, even when your choices don't fit the status quo
- Authored by a clinical child psychologist and member of a team that supports school boards in enhancing student mental health and well-being

Also by Ella Russell and Udayana Lugo



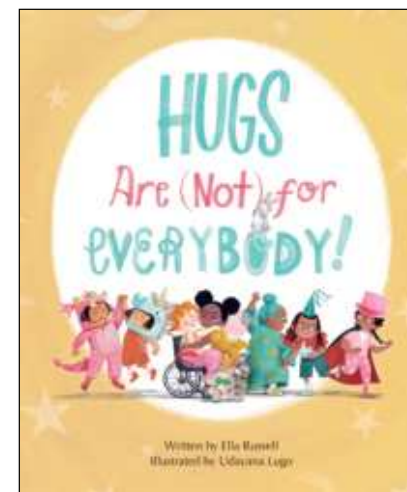
HC • \$19.95 CDN / \$18.95 US  
ISBN 978-1-77147-465-8

Also Recommended



HC • \$21.95 CDN / \$18.95 US  
ISBN 978-1-77147-533-4

## An upbeat ode to setting and respecting personal boundaries



## Hugs Are (Not) for Everybody!

Written by Ella Russell • Illustrated by Udayana Lugo

It's time for a birthday party! On this happy occasion, one friend arrives with hugs for everybody: as a greeting, as a way to celebrate perfectly pinning the tail on the donkey and cracking open the piñata, and of course to wish a happy birthday.

But not everybody wants a hug—and that's okay! One child prefers to wave hello, and one likes to celebrate with high fives. One even suggests a silly, super-secret handshake that ends with a surprise magic trick. But wait! Are magic tricks for everybody? It turns out, they aren't for the bunny, who prefers not to disappear. An even sweeter ending? Delicious birthday cake for everyone to enjoy.

The delightful cast of characters from *Pink Is for Everybody!* comes together again in this affirming story about setting and respecting body boundaries. This book cheerfully imparts that there are lots of ways, hugs and otherwise, to say hello, hooray, and happy birthday!

ELLA RUSSELL is a children's book editor and picture book author with two pets, a cat and a dog. Saffron and Juniper can't read (yet) but they do enjoy chewing on books. Ella, Saffron, and Juniper live in Toronto, Ontario.

UDAYANA LUGO worked variously as a product designer, interior designer, and graphic designer, before her love of drawing and children's books led her to become a children's book illustrator. Udayana was born in Russia, grew up in Mexico City, and now lives in Richmond, British Columbia, with her husband and two kids.

March 2025

24 PAGES • 7.75 x 9.5 • AGES 3–7

HC • \$22.95 CDN / \$18.95 US

ISBN 978-1-77147-639-3



CURRICULUM CONNECTIONS

**Language Arts:** Realistic Fiction; Critical Thinking

**Social-Emotional Learning:** Identification and Management of Emotions; Relationship Skills; Self-Awareness; Self-Identity

**Character Education:** Inclusivity; Kindness; Self-Respect; Respect; Growth Mindset

READING LEVELS

Grade: I+

Fountas & Pinnell: G

Reading Recovery: I2

Lexile® Measure: AD510L

COMMON CORE

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

Character Development

Social-Emotional Learning

### Key Features

- A companion to the critically acclaimed *Pink Is for Everybody!*, named a CBC Best Canadian Picture Book of 2022

- Provides a playful, non-judgmental starting point for a conversation about consent and personal boundaries

- Champions inclusivity in its message, gender-neutral language, and characters who represent diverse cultural, physical, and gender identities





CURRICULUM CONNECTIONS  
**Language Arts:** Realistic Fiction  
**Character Education:** Positive Communication; Respect

READING LEVELS  
Grade: I+  
Fountas & Pinnell: G  
Reading Recovery: I2  
Lexile® Measure: AD470L

COMMON CORE  
RL.1, W.1, SL.1, L.1

Character Development

Key Features

- Debut picture book by a kindergarten teacher with a special interest in early childhood development
- Inspired by a hilarious and true story from the author’s own childhood
- Set on the lush island of Jamaica, the author’s birthplace
- Spotlights a loving but competitive peer relationship, and offers a starting point to discuss childhood rivalries

Also Recommended



HC • \$18.95 CDN / \$16.95 US  
ISBN 978-1-77147-161-9

## Two competitive cousins are in for a surprise as they fight to find the perfect fruit



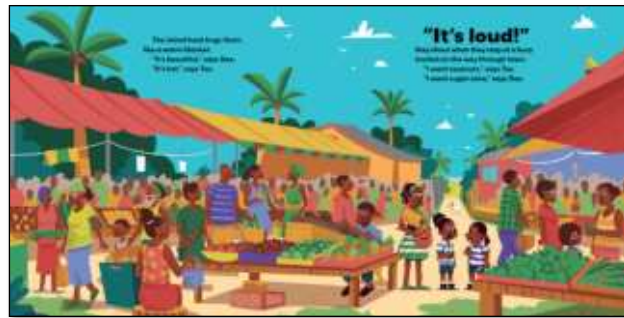
### Ready, Set, Mango!

Written by Tamla Young  
Illustrated by Raz Latif

On an island vacation with their auntie, cousins Tee and Dee set out to find mangoes to make smoothies. As the best of friends, but also the worst of rivals, the girls see everything as a competition, and they immediately begin to argue about who can find the perfect mango first.

But it’s not long before a different treasure ignites their competitive spirits. The girls race to outdo each other in gathering some beautiful dark, round, shiny pebbles ... until they notice a goat producing dark, round, shiny pebble-shaped poops! Together, they burst into laughter over the icky treasure they had been chasing.

Packed with atmospheric details that evoke the sights and sounds of island life and inspired by a memory from the author’s own early years, this playful take on childhood rivalries prizes friendship and laughter above fighting and competing.



TAMLA YOUNG is an author and educator. Her interests include African-centered education, Aboriginal teachings, global citizenship, and social justice issues. She is a life-long learner and gets great joy from instilling a love of learning, resilience, activism, and community in the students she teaches. *Ready, Set, Mango!* is her debut picture book.

RAZ LATIF has contributed to numerous publications including *Chickadee*, *The New York Times*, *The Globe and Mail*, and *Scientific American*, and is the illustrator of *Odd Couples*. Raz lives in Toronto, Ontario.

## A young pianist realizes that mistakes can sometimes lead to joyful discoveries



### Hannah and the Wrong Note

Written by Shane Goth  
Illustrated by Sara Gagnon-Dumont

When Hannah plays piano, music dances in the air. Her notes line up and hold hands, stand straight and spin. They keep perfect pitch and a steady tempo. And Hannah, elegant and serious, dreams of becoming a famous musician.

For her school concert, Hannah chooses an ambitious piece and vows not to play a single wrong note. But no matter how diligently she practices, a wrong note sneaks into her music—including on the day of the performance. Ashamed and upset at the imperfection, Hannah sulks ... until she sees her little sister, Jenny, lovingly dance and play with the wrong note, eventually inspiring Hannah to toss out her sheet music and improvise something completely new. And Hannah likes the sound! The notes aren’t perfect, but they are perfectly hers.

Playful phrasing is paired with lively, expressive illustrations that give true character to the music notes in this pitch-perfect story about making space for creative expression over the perfectionist demands of performance.



SHANE GOTH is the author of the award-nominated picture book *The Midnight Club*. His short fiction has been published in several literary journals. An MFA graduate of the University of British Columbia, Shane lives with his family in Vancouver, BC.

SARA GAGNON-DUMONT skillfully blends pencil and watercolor to create enchanting worlds, drawing inspiration from snowy landscapes, the vast sky, and her beloved toothless wiener-dog. She has illustrated numerous books in Canada and China, and has contributed to the Books for Baby program by the Association des bibliothèques publiques du Québec. She lives in Vancouver, BC, with her family.



CURRICULUM CONNECTIONS  
**Language Arts:** Realistic Fiction; Story Elements; Sentence Fluency  
**Social-Emotional Learning:** Self-Awareness; Responsible Decision Making; Relationships  
**Character Education:** Courage; Growth Mindset

READING LEVELS  
Grade: I+  
Fountas & Pinnell: H  
Reading Recovery: I4  
Lexile® Measure: AD480L

COMMON CORE  
RL.1, W.1, SL.1, L.1

Character Development

Social-Emotional Learning

Key Features

- New from Shane Goth, author of the critically acclaimed and award-nominated picture book *The Midnight Club*
- Encourages growth mindset, perseverance, and embracing process over perfection
- Enchanting pencil crayon and watercolor illustrations that are full of movement

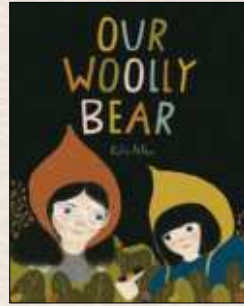
Also by Shane Goth



HC • \$19.95 CDN / \$18.95 US  
ISBN 978-1-77147-394-1

★ Kirkus  
★ Publishers Weekly

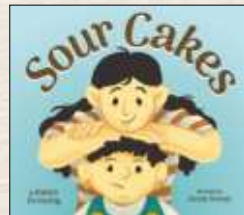
Also by Katie Arthur



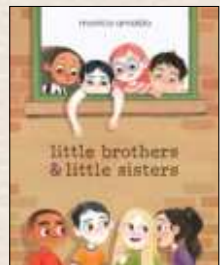
HC • \$21.95 CDN / \$18.95 US  
ISBN 978-1-77147-600-3

★ School Library Journal

Also Recommended



HC • \$19.95 CDN / \$18.95 US  
ISBN 978-1-77147-397-2



HC • \$16.95 CDN / \$18.95 US  
ISBN 978-1-77147-295-1

★ Kirkus

## Henry's big sister helps to turn his worries into brighter what-ifs in this loving sibling story



## What If Marty Doesn't Like My Party?

Written and illustrated by Katie Arthur

Henry's birthday party is approaching, and the most exciting part is that Marty, the coolest kid in Henry's class, is coming! Everybody wants Marty at their party. But as Henry lies awake one night, his head spins with anxious thoughts. What if Marty doesn't have fun? What if she doesn't like his dog, or his apartment, or his Grandma's confetti cake?

From the top bunk, Henry's big sister, Sam, gently puts a positive spin on each of Henry's worries. What if Marty adores dogs? What if she loves their apartment? What if she asks for a third piece of cake? "How do you know all that stuff will happen?" Henry asks his sister as he begins to drift off to sleep. "I don't," Sam replies wisely. "But neither do you."

Told in a graphic novel format with a warm color palette, this story is a loving portrait of a strong sibling relationship that may offer readers a new way to work through their own worries.

KATIE ARTHUR is a writer and illustrator who lives with her family on the rocky shores of northeastern Nova Scotia. Inspired by her curious and creature-loving daughters, she stops to say hello anytime a woolly bear caterpillar crosses her path.

March 2025

32 PAGES • 7 x 9 • AGES 5–8  
HC • \$22.95 CDN / \$18.95 US  
ISBN 978-1-77147-601-0



CURRICULUM CONNECTIONS  
**Language Arts:** Reading Comprehension; Questioning; Dialogue  
**Social-Emotional Learning:** Self-Awareness; Self-Regulation; Relationships  
**Character Education:** Positive Communication; Patience; Courage; Growth Mindset

READING LEVELS  
Grade: 1+  
Fountas & Pinnell: F  
Reading Recovery: 9  
Lexile® Measure: AD460L

COMMON CORE  
RL.1.W.1, SL.1, L.1

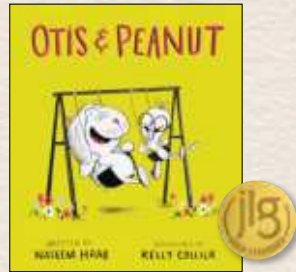
Character Development

Social-Emotional Learning

### Key Features

- New from Katie Arthur, author and illustrator of *Our Woolly Bear*
- A junior graphic novel with rich, detailed illustrations which offers a peek into a loving family life
- Features a strong sibling relationship between a younger brother and older sister
- Highlights social-emotional learning, childhood anxieties, and the common experience of worrying what someone else will think of you

Also in This Series



HC • \$21.95 CDN / \$18.95 US  
ISBN 978-1-77147-496-2

"[Otis and Peanut] bravely follow in the footsteps of Frog and Toad and George and Martha  
— *The New York Times*



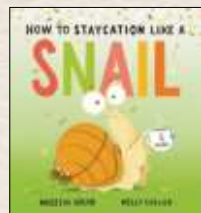
HC • \$19.95 CDN / \$18.95 US  
ISBN 978-1-77147-497-9

Snail & Stump



HC • \$19.95 CDN / \$18.95 US  
ISBN 978-1-77147-417-7

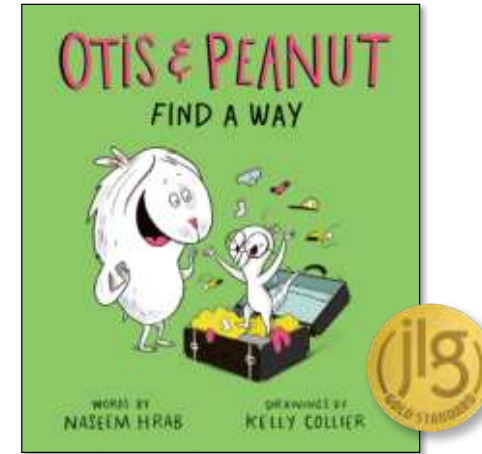
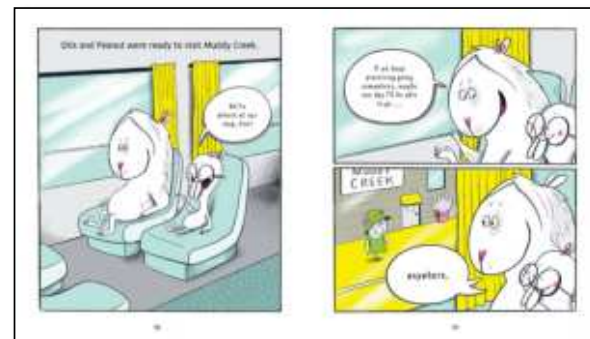
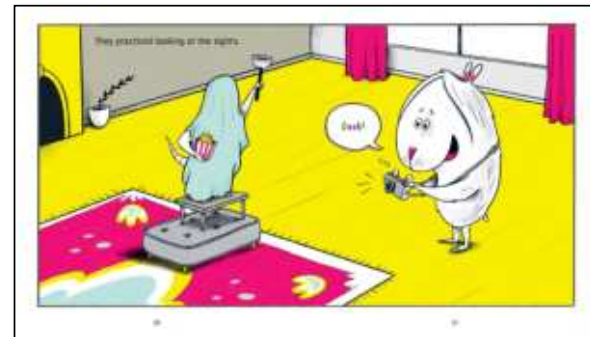
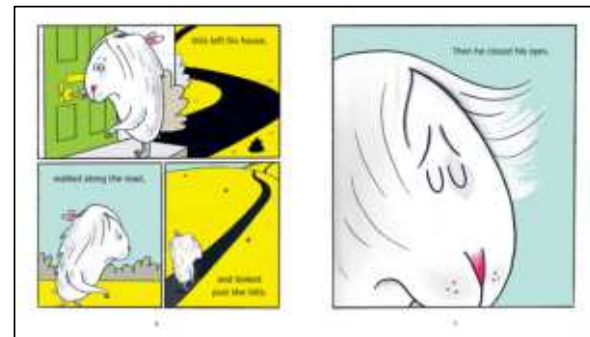
★ Publishers Weekly



HC • \$21.95 CDN / \$18.95 US  
ISBN 978-1-77147-612-6

★ School Library Journal

The beloved duo returns in a third set of little stories with big themes about friendship, facing fear, sadness, and spontaneity



Otis & Peanut Find a Way

Written by Naseem Hrab • Illustrated by Kelly Collier

Otis and Peanut are back with more playful and profound stories in the third installmen of this critically acclaimed junior graphic novel series. Together, the iconic long-haired guinea pig and naked mole rat continue to navigate deep truths about life and human nature while letting their sweet and supportive friendship shine.

In “The Trip,” Peanut helps Otis overcome his fear of leaving home by practicing going somewhere without going anywhere. In “The Stone,” Otis discovers how time can help heal sadness. And in “The Visit,” Otis realizes the joys of embracing spontaneity when plans with his sister Marion fall apart.

Bold, comic artwork with contrasting hues and delightful detail brings the endearing characters to life in these stories that expertly tackle heavy themes of fear, grief, and anxiety with humor and a lighthearted touch.

NASEEM HRAB is the award-winning author of the Otis & Peanut series, *How to Party Like a Snail*, *Weekend Dad*, and *The Sour Cherry Tree*, which was a Governor General’s Literary Awards winner. She loves all sorts of comedy and every kind of ice cream. Naseem lives in Toronto, Ontario.

KELLY COLLIER was born in Ottawa and grew up in Toronto, Ontario, where she still lives with her husband and daughter. She has an identical twin sister and an older brother. As kids, Kelly and her sister drew all the time, mostly in an effort to “outdraw” their brother. Kelly studied illustration in college and is both the author and illustrator of the Steve the Horse series.

April 2025

80 PAGES • 7 x 8 • AGES 6–8  
HC • \$22.95 CDN / \$18.95 US  
ISBN 978-1-77147-611-9



CURRICULUM CONNECTIONS  
**Language Arts:** Dialogue; Transformation  
**Social-Emotional Learning:** Self-Awareness; Social Awareness; Belonging; Relationships  
**Character Education:** Caring; Kindness; Empathy; Positive Communication; Growth Mindset

READING LEVELS  
Grade: 1+  
Fountas & Pinnell: F  
Reading Recovery: 9  
Lexile® Measure: GN520L

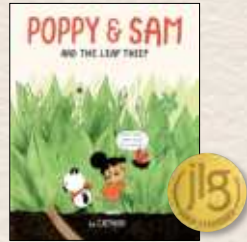
COMMON CORE  
RL.1, W.1, SL.1, L.1

Character Development  
Social-Emotional Learning

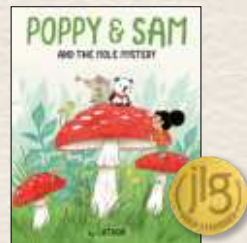
Key Features

- Third book in the Otis & Peanut series by celebrated creators Naseem Hrab and Kelly Collier, the author-illustrator team behind *How to Party Like a Snail* and *How to Staycation Like a Snail*
- Highlights social-emotional learning themes and features a strong, supportive friendship
- Tackles the tough topic of grief in a way that’s both poignant and accessible

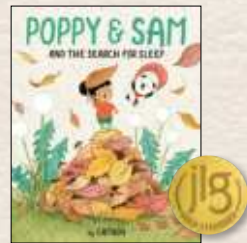
Also Recommended



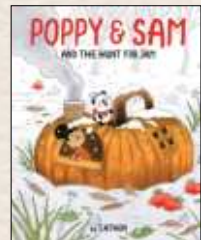
PB • \$12.95 CDN / \$10.95 US  
ISBN 978-1-77147-482-5



PB • \$11.95 CDN / \$9.95 US  
ISBN 978-1-77147-520-4

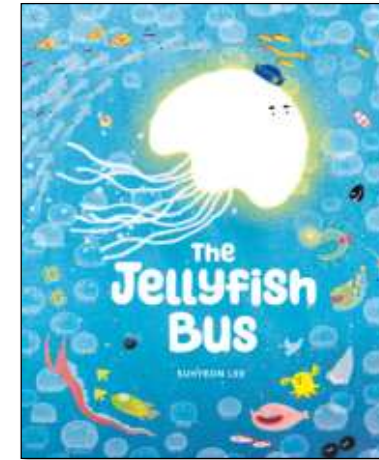
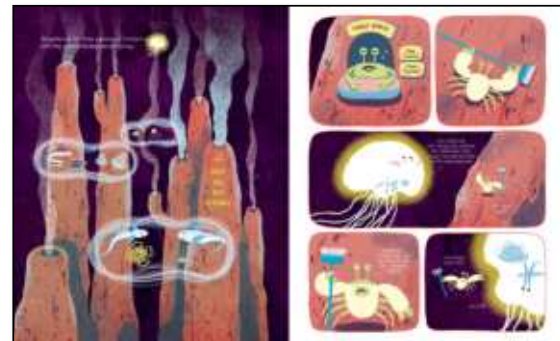


PB • \$11.95 CDN / \$9.95 US  
ISBN 978-1-77147-573-0



HC • \$21.95 CDN / \$18.95 US  
ISBN 978-1-77147-592-1

## A slow-moving jellyfish finds his groove transporting deep sea tourists in this story about the power of community



### The Jellyfish Bus

Written and illustrated by Suhyeon Lee

Slowpoke the jellyfish bus loves his job transporting fellow sea creatures, but he struggles to keep up with demands for faster travel. After he's called into headquarters and told to consider a different career, he feels sad and decides to set out on a sightseeing vacation.

Down in the deepest, darkest parts of the ocean, Slowpoke meets an anglerfish who needs help getting to the ocean's night bazaar up above. Slowpoke offers a ride. And as he travels through unfamiliar terrain and obstacles, he collects a diverse crew of excited passengers who are also headed to the bazaar and eager to see different parts of the sea. Slowpoke finishes the journey feeling inspired to start a new career that suits him perfectly—a deep ocean jellyfish tour bus!

Told in graphic novel-style panels and illustrated in a striking palette of aquatic hues, this funny, friendly story is a lighthearted look at finding community and turning a salty situation into an epic adventure.

SUHYEON LEE studied animation at university and is working as an author/illustrator for children's picture books. She loves to stimulate young readers' imagination with warm and playful illustrations. She currently lives in Bucheon, South Korea.

April 2025

52 PAGES • 9 x 11 • AGES 5–8

HC • \$22.95 CDN / \$18.95 US

ISBN 978-1-77147-691-1



CURRICULUM CONNECTIONS

**Language Arts:** Setting; Dialogue

**Character Education:** Growth Mindset

**Life Science:** Nature; Ocean; Biodiversity

READING LEVELS

Grade: I+

Fountas & Pinnell: H

Reading Recovery: I4

Lexile® Measure: GN550L

COMMON CORE

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

Inquiry STEM

#### Key Features

- Celebrates slowing down and moving at your own pace
- Uses humor to highlight the joy of finding community and belonging
- Introduces a wide variety of diverse and fascinating deep sea creatures

April 2025

32 PAGES • 8.5 x 10 • AGES 4–8

HC • \$22.95 CDN / \$18.95 US  
ISBN 978-1-77147-550-1



**CURRICULUM CONNECTIONS**

**Language Arts:** Understanding Informational Text; Prediction  
**Life Science:** Needs and Characteristics of Living Things; Content-Specific Vocabulary

**READING LEVELS**

Grade: I+  
Fountas & Pinnell: I  
Reading Recovery: 16  
Lexile® Measure: AD660L

**COMMON CORE**

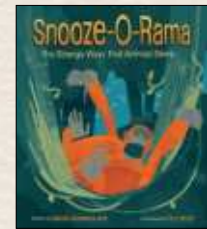
RL.1, W.1, SL.1, L.1

**Inquiry** **STEM**

**Key Features**

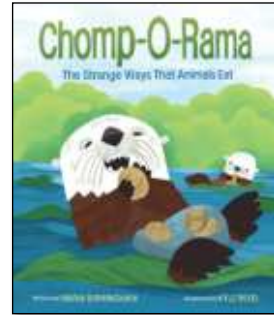
- A companion title to the award-winning *Snooze-O-Rama: The Strange Ways That Animals Sleep*
- New from award-winning children’s nonfiction author Maria Birmingham
- Strong curriculum ties to animal adaptations and behaviors.
- Includes a recommended reading list

Also by Maria Birmingham and Kyle Reed



HC • \$19.95 CDN / \$17.95 US  
ISBN 978-1-77147-404-7

## A fun, fact-filled look at both the relatable and the surprising ways animals gobble up grub



### Chomp-O-Rama The Strange Ways That Animals Eat

Written by Maria Birmingham

Illustrated by Kyle Reed

Crunch ... munch ... slurp ... CHOMP! The animals of *Chomp-O-Rama* are hungry, and each creature has its own way of eating. Some dine in ways similar to humans. Others definitely do not.

This playful nonfiction book offers creative comparisons between the way humans eat and the mealtime habits of a dozen other creatures.

While humans slurp up soup, butterflies use the straw-like part on the front of their head to sip sweet liquids. While we use a knife to cut food, a sea otter cracks open its meal with a stone. While we take bites of our food, a snake swallows its meal whole!

Each turn of the page reveals the surprising comparison, making for an engaging read-aloud experience. Vibrant digital art brings color and humor to the fascinating facts in this inventive and relatable introduction to animal behavior.



MARIA BIRMINGHAM is a longstanding contributor to *OWL* and *Chickadee* magazines, and the award-winning author of several books for young people, including *Acting Wild*, *Biometrics*, and *A Beginner's Guide to Immortality: From Alchemy to Avatars*. Maria lives in Brampton, Ontario.

KYLE REED illustrates adorable characters and worlds for children’s books, including *Snooze-O-Rama*, *Three Little Birds*, *Superheroes Don't Babysit* and the *Local Baby Books*. He loved to draw animals as a kid and still draws them today in Hamilton, Ontario with his family.

## Whose five senses are superior: dogs or humans?



### Dogs vs. Humans A Showdown of the Senses

Written by Stephanie Gibeault

Illustrated by Bambi Edlund

In a showdown of the senses, who would come out as top dog: canines or humans? This junior nonfiction book creates a fierce but fun competition, comparing the ways dogs and humans perceive the world through each of the five senses: sight, smell, taste, touch, and hearing.

As dogs and humans are playfully pitted against each other, young readers will discover the scientific and evolutionary explanations behind our differences. It’s a close race! Humans win for sight, with better depth perception, distance, and color vision. But dogs are stronger sniffers—with their noses, some can even locate people buried in an avalanche or detect an illness before a doctor has diagnosed it. And the winner is ... Well, in the end, it’s a tie!

With lively, cartoon-style illustrations, this book is an engaging and informative introduction to dog behavior that can help kids better understand and appreciate their canine companions.



STEPHANIE GIBEAULT is a children’s author who holds a Master of Science in animal behavior, a Bachelor’s degree in ecology and evolution, and a professional dog trainer certification. She adores dogs, escape rooms, and photography, and lives just outside of Toronto.

BAMBI EDLUND is an illustrator, writer, and critter sculptor living on the Sunshine Coast in British Columbia. She never, ever gets tired of drawing dogs.

March 2025

32 PAGES • 9.75 x 9 • AGES 6–9

HC • \$22.95 CDN / \$18.95 US  
ISBN 978-1-77147-578-5



**CURRICULUM CONNECTIONS**

**Language Arts:** Understanding Informational Text; Question and Answer; Text Features  
**Life Science:** Animal Adaptations; Needs and Characteristics of Living Things; Content-Specific Vocabulary

**READING LEVELS**

Grade: 3+  
Fountas & Pinnell: N  
Lexile® Measure: 900L

**COMMON CORE**

RI.3, W.3, SL.3, L.3

**NGSS**

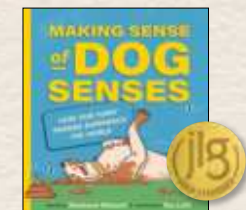
3-LS1-1, 3-LS2-1, 3-LS3-1, 3-LS3-2

**Inquiry** **STEM**

**Key Features**

- New from Stephanie Gibeault, author of the middle grade title *Making Sense of Dog Senses*, who holds a Master of Science in animal behavior and a professional dog trainer certification
- Inventive exploration of two key STEM topics: the five senses and animal behavior
- Engaging, accessible format for junior nonfiction with high-interest subject matter
- Includes a glossary for deeper learning

Also by Stephanie Gibeault



HC • \$21.95 CDN / \$19.95 US  
ISBN 978-1-77147-524-2

March 2025

96 PAGES • 5.5 x 7.25 • AGES 6–9

PB • \$12.95 CDN / \$10.95 US

ISBN 978-1-77147-726-0



Also Available in Hardcover

HC • \$18.95 CDN / \$16.95 US

ISBN 978-1-77147-459-7

CURRICULUM CONNECTIONS

**Language Arts:** Mystery; Fantasy; Story Elements

**Social-Emotional Learning:** Self-Awareness; Social Awareness; Relationships

**Character Education:** Cooperation; Kindness

READING LEVELS

Grade: 3

Fountas & Pinnell: O

Lexile® Measure: 580L

COMMON CORE

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

Character Development

Social-Emotional Learning

Key Features

- Newly available in paperback format
- The second book in the Weird Sisters Detective Agency series
- Addresses themes of creative problem-solving, self-acceptance, and belonging

Also in This Series



HC • \$18.95 CDN / \$16.95 US

ISBN 978-1-77147-456-6

Also Available in Paperback

PB • \$13.95 CDN / \$11.95 US

ISBN 978-1-77147-665-2



HC • \$18.95 CDN / \$16.95 US

ISBN 978-1-77147-604-1

## Three sleuthing sisters find unanticipated self-acceptance in book two of this hilarious mystery series, now available in paperback



### The Weird Sisters: A Robin, a Ribbon, and a Lawnmower

Written by Mark David Smith • Illustrated by Kari Rust

It's summer, and the Weird Sisters are convinced that the residents of Covenly aren't visiting their pet emporium—and newly opened detective agency—because the sisters are too strange. So they decide to try to fit in by letting nine-year-old Jessica Nibley teach them how to play on the swing.

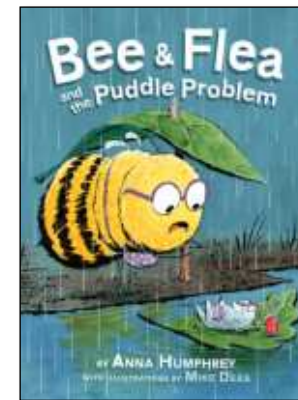
They soon discover the town's beloved tire swing lying on the ground with its rope severed. Who would do such a thing? And why? Jessica and the sisters are determined to solve the mystery. As they search for clues, they stumble onto a second mystery: the robin that nests at Chelsea Oh's house has gone missing. So they plan to find both the robin and the swing vandal.

The second book in this whimsical chapter book mystery series is full of clever wordplay, humorous misunderstandings, and expressive illustrations. With hints of Shakespeare's *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, this kid-empowering story encourages self-acceptance and open-mindedness.

MARK DAVID SMITH is the author of the Weird Sisters Detective Agency series, *The Deepest Dig*, and *Caravaggio: Signed in Blood*. A public school teacher, he lives in Port Coquitlam, British Columbia.

KARI RUST is the author and illustrator of *Tricky* and *The House at the End of the Road*. Before she started making children's books, Kari worked as an animation artist, and her hand-drawn images are full of warmth, style, and humor. A graduate of Emily Carr University of Art and Design, Kari lives in Vancouver, British Columbia.

## Insect investigators Bee and Flea are back for a second sleuthing STEM adventure, now available in paperback



### Bee & Flea and the Puddle Problem

Written by Anna Humphrey • Illustrated by Mike Deas

After a busy week of crime-fighting, F.L.E.A. (Fenced-in Area Law Enforcement Agency) investigators Bee and Flea are invited to an exciting event: an after-the-rain party, hosted in a puddle. Bee feels reluctant to go—she *should* be working on earning her official F.L.E.A. badge, and she doesn't even know how to swim!—but enthusiastic Flea drags her along.

The pair peruse the puddle party until Bee spots a lost baby water bear huddled beneath a leaf. Returning the creature to its mother would help her earn that badge! But on the way, she discovers a bigger problem—the puddle is getting smaller, and her friends' home is at risk of disappearing!

The second book in this engaging and funny chapter book series sees rookie agent Bee overcome challenges to crack her first case. Dynamic black-and-white illustrations bring the cast of underwater partygoers to life, while sneaky STEM content introduces readers to the water cycle and other environmental concepts.

ANNA HUMPHREY is the author of the Bee & Flea series, the Clara Humble series, the Megabat series, and other novels for middle-grade and young adult readers. Anna lives with her family, their cats, and billions upon billions of backyard critters in Kitchener, Ontario.

MIKE DEAS is an author and illustrator of many picture books and graphic novels. From his studio, Mike feels fortunate to hear the frequent humming of busy bees. He lives with his family on sunny Salt Spring Island, British Columbia.

March 2025

128 PAGES • 6 x 8.25 • AGES 6–9

PB • \$12.95 CDN / \$10.95 US

ISBN 978-1-77147-727-7



Also Available in Hardcover

HC • \$18.95 CDN / \$16.95 US

ISBN 978-1-77147-443-6

CURRICULUM CONNECTIONS

**Language Arts:** Story Elements; Plot Patterns

**Earth Science:** Climate; Daily & Seasonal Changes; Water Cycle; Weather

**Life Science:** Characteristics of Living Things; Diversity of Living Things;

Ecosystems; Habitats; Insects; Nature

**Character Education:** Perseverance; Teamwork

READING LEVELS

Grade: 3

Fountas & Pinnell: O

Lexile® Measure: 580L

COMMON CORE

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

Inquiry

STEM

Key Features

- Newly available in paperback
- The second book in the laugh-out-loud STEM chapter book series Bee & Flea
- From Anna Humphrey, critically acclaimed author of the Megabat and Clara Humble series
- Curriculum ties to life cycles, seasonal changes, and evaporation

Also in This Series



HC • \$18.95 CDN / \$16.95 US

ISBN 978-1-77147-420-7

Also Available in Paperback

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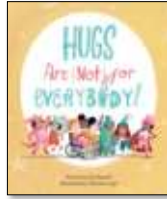
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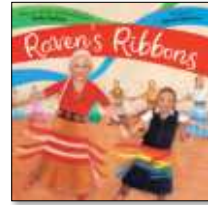
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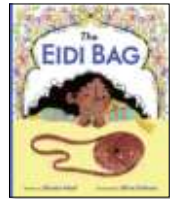
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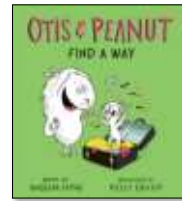
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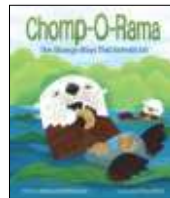


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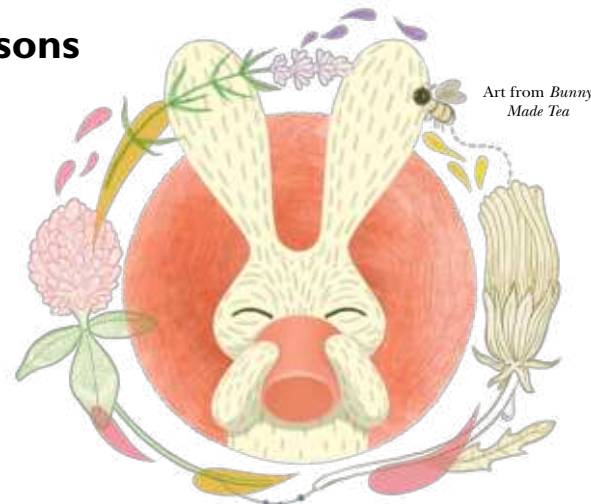
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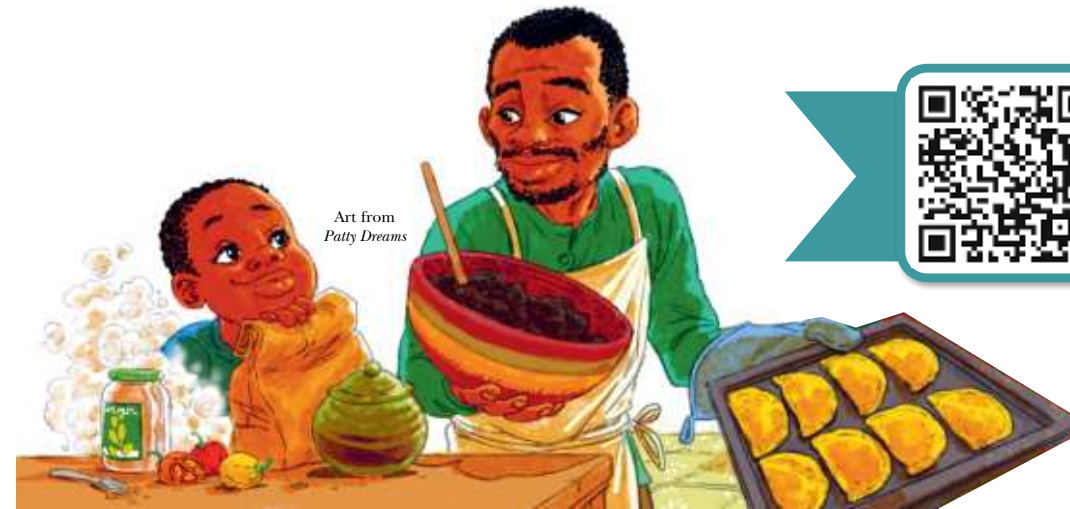


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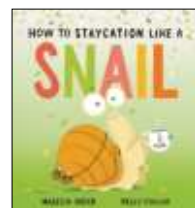
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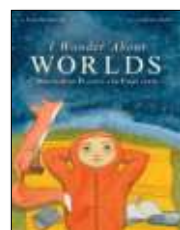
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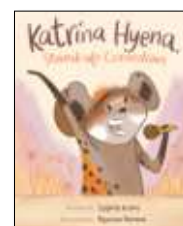
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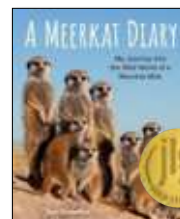
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