Read a Book, Share a Story

Lire un livre, c’est partager une histoire

Great Canadian Books for Kids & Teens

Fun Facts, Activities, and more!

May 5 – 12, 2012
TD Canadian Children’s Book Week
du 5 au 12 mai 2012 Semaine canadienne TD du livre jeunesse

Organized by The Canadian Children’s Book Centre

www.bookweek.ca
Canadian-born Lillian Helena Smith (1887–1983) once said, “The story hour is unquestionably one of the best methods of attracting children to books.” As a child, she was more worried about the state of her book than herself when she tumbled from her home’s roof while reading up there one day. When Smith grew up, she became a children’s librarian — a perfect match of profession for an avid reader and lover of children’s literature. In 1912, she became the director of children’s services for the Toronto Public Library. In taking on this role, she made library history by becoming the first trained children’s librarian in the British Empire. The 100th anniversary of this momentous occasion serves as the inspiration for this year’s TD Canadian Children’s Book Week theme of “Read a Book, Share a Story.”

Delight in stories that revolve around books, libraries and reading. Discover real stories from the lives of Inuit artists and famous children’s authors, of our nation stitched together like a quilt, about books forbidden throughout history, fictional stories that come true and stories about or inspired by Shakespeare. Delve into stories that tell of the mysterious and magical forces of books and others that tell about young people who are aspiring creators of stories. Develop skills for telling your own stories by exploring the processes of publishing books, creating flipbooks and comics and writing picture books.

The books in this guide are listed alphabetically by title and grouped according to category (i.e., picture books, junior fiction, young adult fiction, non-fiction, etc.). Thematic links are included at the end of each annotation to help you select appropriate books by subject. Look for the Activities section at the end of the guide for suggestions on how to make these books come alive in your classroom or library.

Lillian Smith, a library pioneer extraordinaire who achieved many firsts in her field, also said, “The love for a good story, well told, lies deep in every human heart.” Let’s raise a book and make a wish that within this guide the children and teens in your lives will unearth a gem of a story that touches each of their hearts.
Ten Quick Facts About

Lillian H. Smith

Canadian Library Pioneer Extraordinaire

1887  Lillian Helena Smith was born in London, Ontario.

1912  Smith became the first trained children's librarian in the British Empire when she was hired as the Director of Children's Services for the Toronto Public Library.

1926  Lillian Smith opened Toronto's first school library.

1927  Smith published the first edition of her guide to high quality children's books called *Books for Boys and Girls*.

1930  Lillian Smith introduced a classification system that she designed for children's books.

1934  Smith assisted in the establishment of several children's libraries in Canada.

1949  The Toronto Public Library received the donation of the Osborne Collection from Edgar Osborne. This collection, which consists of English children's literature published up to 1910, is housed at the Lillian H. Smith Library (a branch of the Toronto Public Library).

1952  Lillian Smith retired after four decades of distinguished service and published her book, *The Unreluctant Years*. This title was translated into Japanese in 1964 and into Italian in 1971. Visit www.archive.org to read *The Unreluctant Years* or to download it in one of several formats.

1962  This year marked the 50th anniversary of children's library service in Toronto. The Lillian H. Smith Collection was created in honour of this occasion. It consists of English-language books (fairy tales, picture books, poetry, fiction) published since 1910, and is housed at the Lillian H. Smith Library (a branch of the Toronto Public Library).

1983  At the age of 95, Lillian Smith passed away on January 5th.

*The above facts were compiled using the chronology that appears in Sydell Waxman's *Believing in Books: The Story of Lillian Smith*. This book is discussed in the Biography section of the theme guide.

Visit www.archive.org to read Lillian Smith’s *A List of Approved Books for Boys and Girls* or to download it in one of several formats.

To listen to a two-part interview with Smith and to learn more about her, visit www.lillianhsmith.ca.
Franklin’s Library Book (Kids Can Read)
Written by Sharon Jennings
Illustrated by Céleste Gagnon, Sean Jeffrey, Sasha McIntyre and Laura Vegys
Kids Can Press, 2005
Preschool – Grade 3 (Ages 4 – 8)

Franklin the Turtle borrows a book entitled How to Make a Super-Duper Kite from the library; then he makes kites with his friend Bear and flies them. His other friend, Beaver, wants to borrow the book. Franklin says he’s finished with it and will return it to the library. When he can’t find it, he refuses to attend library storytime because he doesn’t have the book. Franklin then has a change of heart and goes to story time in disguise. When Mrs. Goose the librarian suspects Franklin is under the disguise, he denies it and runs away. Franklin finds Bear, Beaver, Fox and Rabbit consulting the book as they make kites. It turns out that Bear had brought the book home without telling Franklin and, therefore, the turtle thought it was lost. This book is based on the television episode “Franklin Loses a Book” written by Brian Lasenby.

Thematic Links: Turtles–Libraries–Books–Kites

Franklin’s Reading Club (Kids Can Read)
Written by Sharon Jennings
Illustrated by Sean Jeffrey, Mark Koren and Alice Sinkner
Kids Can Press, 2003
Preschool – Grade 3 (Ages 4 – 8)

Franklin enjoys reading the Dynaroo books and owns all of the books in the series. When the latest title, Dynaroo and the Monster, comes out, he and his pals decide to meet at Mr. Heron’s bookstore first thing in the morning, wearing their Dynaroo capes. They arrive at the bookstore only to find the book has been sold out. Next, the gang head to the toy shop and discover that all of its copies of the book have been sold, too. They finally trek to the library and learn that the last copy of the book has been borrowed. Franklin arrives home to a delightful surprise: his granny has bought him the book. Beaver, Fox and Bear grow impatient for him to finish reading the book so they can each borrow it. Franklin thinks of a win-win solution for everyone. He invites his friends to his home and reads the entire book aloud to them. This book is based on the television episode “Franklin’s Reading Club” written by Brian Lasenby.

Thematic Links: Turtles–Books–Bookstores–Libraries–Sharing

ABC Letters in the Library
Written by Bonnie Farmer
Illustrated by Chum McLeod
Lobster Press, 2004
Preschool – Grade 2 (Ages 3 – 7)

Montreal author and pre-kindergarten teacher Bonnie Farmer pays an alphabetical tribute to the heart of Reading Central. Adults, especially those who are library professionals, may chuckle when they read the text used to illustrate the letter H: “The librarian’s soft shh soon hushes all talk.” Illustrator Chum McLeod’s sense of humour comes through as well. Her artwork accompanying the text “Humming computers collect countless call numbers” depicts two monitors humming into microphones. This cheery and attractive ode to the library can be used to enrich the vocabulary of the eight-and-under set, introduce them to alliteration and teach them library lingo. To learn more about the author and her books, visit www.lobsterpress.com and www.bookcentre.ca. To learn more about the illustrator, visit www.annickpress.com.

Thematic Links: Libraries–Alphabet
Chester
Written and illustrated by Mélanie Watt
Kids Can Press, 2007
Kindergarten—Grade 3 (Ages 4–8)

Watt tries to write a tale about a mouse in a house. Not only does Chester, her rascally cat, send the mouse packing but he won't quit interfering with her efforts to tell her story. The pesky feline doodles on pages, scribbles obnoxious remarks and proceeds to rewrite the story using his red marker pen. This book was a CCBC Best Books for Kids & Teens 2008 selection, and won the 2009 Ontario Library Association’s Blue Spruce Award and was shortlisted for the 2008 Amelia Frances Howard-Gibbon Illustrator’s Award. Readers can follow this mischievous cat on other adventures in Chester’s Back! and Chester’s Masterpiece. Visit www.kidscanpress.com for posters and stickers. Visit melaniewatt.com to learn more about the author-illustrator and her books.

Thematic Links: Cats – Mice – Storytelling Techniques – Voice (Literary Device)

The Girl Who Hated Books
Written by Manjusha Pawagi
Illustrated by Leanne Franson
Second Story Press, 1998
Kindergarten—Grade 3 (Ages 5–8)

Meena hates books but can’t escape them at home because they’re everywhere. To make matters worse, her parents are avid readers and buy her books that she doesn’t even open. When Meena spies her cat Max perched on a precarious stack of books, she tries to rescue him but can’t. As the tower of titles tumbles down, characters escape from the books and wreak havoc around her. Meena discovers that she must read the beginning of each book so the characters can return to their rightful stories. Once she restores order, she wonders what the characters are up to and begins reading her books to find out. This book has been translated into 15 languages and was the title distributed for the 2003 TD Grade One Book Giveaway Program. It was also adapted into an animated short film for the NFB Talespinners series. To watch the film online, go to www.nfb.ca. To learn more about the book’s author, visit secondstorypress.ca. To find out more about its illustrator, visit leannefranson.com.

Thematic Links: Books – Pets – Reading – Family – Book Characters

Have I Got a Book for You
Written and illustrated by Mélanie Watt
Kids Can Press, 2009
Kindergarten—Grade 4 (Ages 5–9)

If you’re looking for a great book, you have come to the right place. Mr. Al Foxword is one relentless salesman who stops at almost nothing to convince you to buy this book. He employs every cheesy selling technique of the retail trade, from flattering us readers to offering us free gifts. Just as we are poised to shut the book on him, Mr. Foxword corners us into a sale and makes us an artful offer we simply can’t refuse. Bold artwork, rendered in charcoal pencil and assembled digitally, brings this cleverly crafted text to life. This book was shortlisted for the 2010 Canadian Library Association’s Amelia Frances Howard-Gibbon Illustrator’s Award and the 2011 Ontario Library Association’s Blue Spruce Award. For a poster and teacher’s guide, visit www.kidscanpress.com. Visit melaniewatt.com to learn more about the author-illustrator and her books.

Thematic Links: Salespeople – Persuasion – Sales Techniques – Retail Industry

Jeffrey and the Sloth
Written by Kari-Lynn Winters
Illustrated by Ben Hodson
Orca Book Publishers, 2007
Kindergarten—Grade 4 (Ages 4–9)

Jeffrey has to write a story for homework. But he can’t think of what to write about so he starts doodling instead. His situation takes a surprising turn when his doodle of a sloth comes alive and begins bossing him around. Jeffrey regains control and puts the sloth back in its place when he starts writing a story about the snarky creature. Bright, lively acrylic and coloured-pencil artwork accompanies this charming tale. This book was nominated for the 2008 Ontario Library Association’s Blue Spruce Award and British Columbia’s 2008-2009 Chocolate Lily Award. Visit kariwinters.com to learn more about the author and head on over to benhodson.ca to learn more about the illustrator.

Thematic Links: Writing – Sloths – Ideas – Imagination – Homework
Jeremiah Learns to Read
Written by Jo Ellen Bogart
Illustrated by Laura Fernandez and Rick Jacobson
Scholastic Canada / North Winds Press, 1997
Kindergarten – Grade 3 (Ages 4 – 8)

Jeremiah is an elderly man blessed with a wife, children and grandchildren. He is also a master of multiple talents, from building a split-rail fence to cooking buttermilk pancakes. But he doesn’t know how to read, and his wife and brother can’t teach him. Jeremiah wants to learn to read so he decides to go to school. As he learns to read and write, he teaches his teacher and decades-younger classmates some skills of his own. By the story’s end, Jeremiah shares his new gift of reading with his wife and promises to teach her how to read, too. This book was a 1997 Ontario Library Association Best Bet, CCBC Our Choice 1998 starred selection and won the 1998 Ruth Schwartz Children’s Book Award (picture book category). To find out more about the author and her books, visit www.canscaip.org. To learn more about the book’s illustration duo, check out www.jacobsonfernandez.com.

Thematic Links: Literacy – Elderly – Farm Life – Intergenerational Relationships – School

Lily and the Mixed-Up Letters
Written by Deborah Hodge
Illustrated by France Brassard
Tundra Books, 2007
Kindergarten – Grade 3 (Ages 4 – 8)

Meet Lily, a second grader whose reading difficulties cause her to stop enjoying school. Her insecurity increases when she learns that each student must read aloud on Parent Day. With help from her mother and her friend Grace, and plenty of extra practice, Lily grows confident enough to take on the challenge. One of the story’s strengths is that the main character excels in one area (art) even though she struggles in another. Although some children with reading difficulties require more help than the extra practice Lily needs, the author’s gentle and encouraging treatment of dyslexia is commendable. To learn more about the author and her work, visit www.deborahhodge.com. To find out more about the illustrator and her books, visit www.francebrassard.com.

Thematic Links: Dyslexia – School – Reading – Learning Challenges

An Ordinary School Day
Written by C.J. Hamilton
Illustrated by Cindy Revell
Annick Press, 2003
Kindergarten – Grade 4 (Ages 5 – 9)

This story revolves around a girl named Maya as she spends a day at school. But here’s the catch: readers have control over the story and can decide how Maya’s day there unfolds. They can choose from 66 words printed on stickers to fill in the one or two blank spaces that appear on each of the book’s pages. Kids can use the available blank stickers to add their own words to the mix. The possibilities are endless as to how many variations of the story can be created. Since the stickers are reusable, the story can be retold several times with fresh twists. Acrylic illustrations accompany this create-it-yourself story. Visit www.cindyrevell.com to learn about the illustrator and her books.

Thematic Links: School – Storytelling – Interactive Stories
Our Principal Promised to Kiss a Pig 🐷
Written by Kalli Dakos and Alicia DesMarteau
Illustrated by Carl DiRocco
Albert Whitman and Company, 2004
Kindergarten–Grade 3 (Ages 4–8)
Ms. Juliet, the school principal, promises to kiss a pig if her students read 10,000 books. A girl student volunteers Hamlet, her Shakespeare-spouting pet pig, for the smooch. Expressing his disapproval of participating in the spectacle, the unwilling porcine says, "To kiss, or not to kiss, / The principal in school? / Why choose a pig / To be their fool?" And then the big moment arrives. When Hamlet sees how beautiful Ms. Juliet is, he has a change of heart and does want her to kiss him. She temporarily has doubts, though, about puckering up to the pig. When she finally does bite the bullet and plant three smooches on his snout, he falls in love with her. Shortly thereafter, Hamlet meets a pig named Kate who helps him soothe his heartache over Ms. Juliet.
Dakos offers a short paragraph about Shakespeare. She also explains the story's Shakespearean references by giving the original lines of text, which characters spoke them and in which plays the text appears. The Ottawa-based author is best known for her children's poetry collections, which include Put Your Eyes Up Here (2003) and A Funeral in the Bathroom (2011). Visit www.kallidakos.com to learn more about the author and her books.

Thematic Links: William Shakespeare–Pigs–Principals–School–Reading–Contests

Put Me in a Book 📚
Written by Robert Munsch
Illustrated by Michael Marchenko
Scholastic Canada, 2010
Preschool–Grade 3 (Ages 3–8)
While out on a walk with her class, Hailey meets an author who is looking for a kid to put in his picture book. She asks if she can be in his book, and the author accepts her offer. Hailey soon discovers that being in a book is not the honour it's cracked up to be and wants out of it. Her classmates employ various techniques to extract her from the book. After they rescue Hailey, they rewrite the book's ending so that the author winds up in his own book.
Visit robertmunsch.com to hear Munsch read the story and to learn more about him and his books (at least 50 or so and counting).

Thematic Links: Authors–Imagination–Teamwork–School–Problem Solving

Rachel's Library 📚
Written and illustrated by Richard Ungar
Tundra Books, 2004
Kindergarten–Grade 2 (Ages 4–7)
The people of Chelm wish to show their true wisdom and dispel the general opinion held by outsiders that they are foolish. A delegation of Chelm villagers travel to Warsaw to find a solution to their problem. After setting off, they discover Rachel hiding under a blanket in their cart. In the end, it is the group's unexpected young guest who holds the solution to their problem. Though the story possesses a humorous tone, it conveys a valuable and inspiring message: sometimes the answers to our problems are closer than we think – they lie within us. Ungar's watercolour and coloured-pencil illustrations, rich with reds, oranges and yellows, add vibrancy and warmth to this folktale inspired by the story "Chelm's School" by Samuel Tennenbaum. Readers can follow the main character on other adventures in Rachel Captures the Moon and Rachel's Gift. To find out more about the author and his books, visit www.richard-ungar.com

Thematic Links: Libraries–19th Century–Folktales

Read Me a Book 📚
Written and illustrated by Barbara Reid
Scholastic Canada, 2007
Preschool (Ages 1–3)
Babies love books. Parents love reading to babies. This board book about families reading together, anytime and anywhere, is perfect for them to share. The text features illustrations rendered in Plasticine. Originally created for the Government of Ontario's Early Literacy program, this book was first published as a hardcover title in 2004 by North Winds Press and was a CCBC Our Choice 2005 starred selection. Visit www.barbarareid.ca to learn more about the author-illustrator and her work.

Thematic Links: Reading–Plasticine Art–Babies–Families–Three-Dimensional Art
Read Me a Story: Canadian Favourites

Scholastic Canada, 2010
Preschool – Grade 3 (Ages 3 – 8)

This large-format (31 cm x 25 cm) anthology contains five books that were first published between 1989 and 2005. In Barbara Reid’s The Party (1997), the children engage in their own style of amusement at Gran’s birthday. Werner Zimmermann’s Henny Penny (1989) is a retelling of the well-known folktale that features a hen who believes the sky is falling.

A Second is a Hiccup (2004), written by Hazel Hutchins and illustrated by Kady MacDonald Denton, is a rhyming exploration of various increments of time from a second to a year. In Too Many Books! (2004), written by Gilles Tibo and illustrated by Bruno St-Aubin, when Nicholas attempts to perform a task, someone gives him a book on how to do it correctly. In Sophie and the Sea Monster (2005), written by Don Gillmor and illustrated by Michael Martchenko, the heroine tries to oust a sea monster from under her bed. In a one-page “About...” section, the authors and illustrators share insights into how their books were created.

Thematic Links: Anthologies – Celebrations – Time – Reading – Monsters – Self-Instruction

Taming Horrible Harry

Written by Lii Chartrand
Illustrated by Rogé
Translated by Susan Ouriou
Tundra Books, 2006
Kindergarten – Grade 4 (Ages 4 – 9)

The monster of the title frightens off a girl reading near his tree. In her hasty departure, she leaves her book behind. Harry is so intrigued by its illustrations that he forgets about scaring humans. He discovers the magic of stories when Dolores del Dragon, the only creature in the forest who knows how to read, explains what books are and teaches him to read. Thanks to Rogé’s artwork, children are likely to find Harry lovable in an offbeat, rather than scary, way. This book was a finalist for the 2007 Ontario Library Association’s Blue Spruce Award and first appeared in French as Le gros monstre qui aimait trop lire. Visit www.lilichartrand.com to learn more about the book’s author and roge-ca.squarespace.com to learn more about its illustrator.

Thematic Links: Monsters – Dragons – Reading

Too Many Books!

Written by Gilles Tibo
Illustrated by Bruno St-Aubin
Scholastic Canada, 2004
Kindergarten – Grade 3 (Ages 4 – 8)

As Nicholas tries to tie his shoes, brush his teeth, bathe his cat and ride his bike, someone gives him a book that explains how to execute these tasks properly. When he visits the library with his favourite neighbour, Veronica, he doesn’t choose any books to borrow. Nicholas assumes the only books that exist are ones that teach you how to do things as these are the only ones he’s ever encountered. He insists he has plenty of these books and doesn’t need any more. When Veronica tells him that books can be read just for fun, Nicholas has a change of heart and borrows a book about knights, an adventure book about pirates and a funny book. This book first appeared in French as Des livres pour Nicolas! Learn about author-illustrator Gilles Tibo and his work at www.scholastic.ca and www.communication-jeunesse.qc.ca. To find out more about illustrator Bruno St-Aubin, check out www.scholastic.ca and brunostaubin.com.


Young Authors’ Day at Pokeweed Public School

(Pokeweed Public School)

Written and illustrated by John Bianchi
Pokeweed Press, 1999
Kindergarten – Grade 4 (Ages 4 – 9)

Each year, Pokeweed Public School dedicates a week to young authors. During the first four days, students write and illustrate their own books and then bind them and read them aloud to their classmates. An author visit marks the fifth day, known as Young Authors’ Day. This year, the students and teachers have never seen the author before. They are surprised when Mr. Thornbottom turns out to be a little book mouse, a creature notably smaller than they expected. He makes a lasting impression on the Pokeweed Public School students and leaves them with these words: “And
remember, you don’t have to be big to write stories that are larger than life!” Readers can discover what else the students are up to in *Snowed in at Pokeweed Public School*. To find out more about the author and his books, visit [www.johnbianchi.com](http://www.johnbianchi.com) or [www.pokeweed.com](http://www.pokeweed.com).

### Junior Fiction

**Awake and Dreaming**

Written by Kit Pearson  
*Viking Books, 1996*  
Grades 3–6 (Ages 8–11)

With her mother, nine-year-old Theo endures a poverty-stricken existence in Vancouver. Through books and her imagination, she escapes from the realities of her difficult life. Theo is sent to live with her aunt in Victoria but wishes to live in a large, warm family. Her wish comes true when she meets the Kaldors and they “adopt” her. When the magic of the world of her fantasy family dissolves, she goes to live with her aunt. Theo also meets the ghost of Cecily Stone, an author who passed away before writing a book she feels she was meant to about a lonely, unhappy child. Cecily has discovered her story’s character in Theo, but it is left to Theo to write the book. This book has earned multiple awards, including the 1997 Ruth Schwartz Children’s Book Award, B.C.’s 1999 Red Cedar Book Award (fiction) and the 1999 Manitoba Young Readers’ Choice Award. Visit [www.kitpearson.com](http://www.kitpearson.com) to find out more about the author and her books.  
**Thematic Links:** Single-Parent Families—Reading Ghost Stories—Authors—Fantasy

**Bookweird**

Written by Paul Glennon  
*Doubleday Canada, 2008*  
Grades 4–7 (Ages 9–12)

Eleven-year-old Norman Jespers-Vilnius lands inside his favourite book after absentmindedly nibbling on the edge of a page. Caught in the midst of an epic battle between animal kingdoms, he forges a close friendship with young Malcolm, a future king. After joining Malcolm’s fight, Norman finds himself back in his own bed, filthy and in ripped pyjamas. But his adventures have only just started. Norman has been hit by a mysterious force called “Bookweird,” which causes him to wind up inside books his family are reading and mix up the plotlines of these stories. Can he put all the stories back on track and restore these fictional worlds to normal? Or will Bookweird trap him in the pages forever? This story continues in *Bookweirder*. Visit [www.paulglennon.com](http://www.paulglennon.com) to find out more about the author and his work.  
**Thematic Links:** Books—Reading—Plots—Adventure—Family

**Bookweirder**

Written by Paul Glennon  
*Doubleday Canada, 2010*  
Grades 4–8 (Ages 9–13)

Norman Jespers-Vilnius is stuck in the sleepy British countryside with his parents and super-annoying sister. His situation takes an exciting turn when he lands himself in the heart of an adventure story he finds in the house’s dusty library. Soon Norman is making odd new allies and odd new enemies as he fights to rescue his best friend, Malcolm the Prince of Stoats, from another book gone awry. Can Norman save Malcolm and guide the novel back on course? Can he hide his adventures in Bookweird from his suspicious mother and the meddlesome character, Fuchs? Before readers find out, they accompany Norman on a chilling trip to 19th-century Paris, a fiery medieval adventure and, last but not least, a quest to learn the family secret at the heart of Bookweird. *Bookweirder* won the 2011 Sunburst Award for Excellence in Canadian Literature of the Fantastic (young adult category). The book is the sequel to *Bookweird*. Visit [www.paulglennon.com](http://www.paulglennon.com) to find out more about the author and his work.  
**Thematic Links:** Books—Reading—Plots—Adventure—Family
**Cairo Kelly and the Mann**  
*Written by Kristin Butcher*  
Orca Book Publishers, 2002  
*Grades 4 – 7 (Ages 9 – 12)*

Thirteen-year-old Kelly is a pitching powerhouse on the baseball field. But he is also known for his off-field antics that often land him and his friend Midge in hot water. Kelly’s attitude changes when Hal Mann (“the Mann”), the league’s favourite umpire, is barred from officiating when he refuses to take the new mandatory umpire exam. With Midge’s support, Kelly stages a protest—a tactic that threatens to cancel the playoffs and ruin Kelly’s chance to play for a scout. The boys learn that Hal doesn’t want to write the test because he can’t read. Stunned by the revelation, they refuse to abandon their friend. Though Kelly and Midge think of a morally questionable solution to Hal’s problem, it is evident that their hearts are in the right place. This book conveys two positive messages: teenagers can effect change, and some causes are worth fighting for. Butcher’s background as a teacher is no doubt related to her ability to create credible adolescent characters. Baseball lovers will appreciate her detailed knowledge of the sport. This book will appeal to sports fans, including those who are reluctant readers. This title was a CCBC *Our Choice 2003* selection and an Ontario Library Association Best Bet. It was also shortlisted, in 2004, for the Manitoba Young Readers’ Choice Award and British Columbia’s Chocolate Lily Award. Visit [www.kristinbutcher.com](http://www.kristinbutcher.com) to find out more about the author and her work.

**Thematic Links:** Illiteracy–Baseball–Risks–Friendship–Secrets

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**Cave of Departure**  
*(Estorian Chronicles)*  
*Written by Nikki Tate*  
Sono Nis Press, 2001  
*Grades 4 – 8 (Ages 9 – 13)*

Twelve-year-old Dominique Elnedo feels like an oddball among his own people, the Estorians, who believe the telling of stories is the purpose for their existence. But no matter how hard he tries, Dominique is unable to tell a story. He yearns for his father, a grand storyteller who has travelled for much of his life, to return home. Dominique was expected to tell a story at the Coming of Stories, a ceremony held to mark his passing from boyhood to manhood. Unable to fulfill this rite of passage, he is banished by the clan for one year so that he can discover his “voice” and become a teller of stories. Dominique and his pet bird, Navina, head out to seek the Cave of Departure. Having heard tell of this cave in tales, Dominique knows he must journey there. During the perilous and thrilling voyage, various mythical creatures and folks assist the boy and his bird. Where will Dominique’s quest take him and what will he find there?

This book was nominated for British Columbia’s Chocolate Lily Award and the Manitoba Young Readers’ Choice Award. It is the first book in the trilogy. *The Battle for Carnillo* is the second installment in the series. Visit [www.nikkitate.com](http://www.nikkitate.com) to learn more about the author and her books.

**Thematic Links:** Fantasy–Children–Poetry–Stories–Birth–Adoption–Families–Quests

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**A Girl Named Tennyson**  
*Written by Joan Givner*  
Thistledown Press, 2010  
*Grades 4 – 8 (Ages 9 – 13)*

Tennyson (aka Tenn) is a girl named for the great poet, Alfred, Lord Tennyson (1809–1892). Her name is appropriate because she loves poetry, story and rhyme so much she can recite several texts by heart. While en route to visit her grandmother, she is transported to the fantasy world of Greensward where she befriends a girl named Una. When Una is taken to a nearby nation ruled by evil forces set to destroy Greensward’s peace, Tenn is chosen to rescue her and bring her home. Wise woman Bethan equips Tenn with teachings and supplies for her perilous mission. When Tenn finds Una, she discovers numerous other children who must also be rescued and returned home to Greensward. In addition to the wise woman’s training, it is Tenn’s own sharp memory and rich knowledge that help her succeed on her quest.

**Thematic Links:** Fantasy–Children–Poetry–Stories–Birth–Adoption–Families–Quests

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**Home Free**  
*(Gutsy Girl)*  
*Written by Sharon Jennings*  
Second Story Press, 2009  
*Grades 4 – 7 (Ages 9 – 12)*

This story unfolds during the 1960s.
It revolves around Lee Mets, a girl whose talent for writing has been noted by her teacher. She yearns to be a writer more than anything else even though her mother believes that girls don’t grow up to be writers. She writes about her wonderful but sad summer. It began when an orphan named Cassandra Jovanovich moved in right across from her house. She considers this to be the most exciting thing to happen on her street — after all, the best stories are all about orphans. Due to Cassandra, two key events occur in Lee’s life. Lee writes a play starring Cassandra. Furthermore, Lee learns that being an orphan is far from thrilling. This book was shortlisted for the 2010 TD Canadian Children’s Literature Award and was a finalist for the Ontario Library Association’s 2011 Silver Birch Award (Fiction). Visit www.sharonjennings.ca to find out more about the author and her books. 

**Thematic Links:** 1960s – Writing – Summer – Orphans – Neighbours

### Odd Man Out

Written by Sarah Ellis  
Groundwood Books, 2006  
Grades 5 – 8 (Ages 10 – 13)

Jas finds himself immersed in hidden family history when he travels to B.C. to visit his grandma. In his closet, he finds a binder containing a story that his dead father wrote as a young man. The story, which reads like a sci-fi novel, is conveyed as a confidential report penned by a mysterious young operative who is carrying out a secret mission. Kip finds the story intriguing; reading it helps him feel connected to his dad. But he is shocked when he gleams disturbing news about his dad from an overheard conversation between his mom and grandmother. The unsettling discovery forces Kip to question and doubt many things, including the image of his dad that he’s constructed. Parts of Kip’s father’s story are woven into the text, creating suspense and mystery as readers try to guess the context in which it was written and whether it is fact or fiction. The secondary story possesses a dark, intense and eerie mood and provides a marked contrast to the lighter, carefree, brighter tone of the primary story. This book was a CCBC Our Choice 2007 starred selection. It also earned numerous awards, including the 2007 TD Canadian Children’s Literature Award, and was shortlisted for several others, including the 2007 Ruth and Sylvia Schwartz Children’s Book Award. To learn more about the author and her work, visit www.sarahellis.ca.

**Thematic Links:** Family – Fathers and Sons – Mental Illness – Writing – Stories

### The Prince of Tarn

Written by Hazel Hutchins  
Illustrated by Ruth Ohi  
Annick Press, 1997  
Grades 3 – 5 (Ages 8 – 10)

The fictitious Prince of Tarn appears in Fred’s bedroom shortly before midnight on his eleventh birthday. Though the boy recognizes him as a character from an unpublished manuscript written by his late mother, he wonders why the prince has come to life. Fred and his friend Rebecca struggle to supervise the arrogant and spoiled prince and keep him out of trouble. The children travel with the prince back to his home where they must help him ward off an enchantment that is jeopardizing the kingdom and his own existence. Six full-page, black-and-white illustrations accompany this entertaining story constructed on a clever premise. This book earned the 1998 R. Ross Annett Award for Children’s Literature from the Writers Guild of Alberta. For activities to do before, during and after reading The Prince of
Ellis chronicles the adventures of a clever twelve-year-old orphan named Jack. He was a master at avoiding trouble at the orphanage but in his newfound life of freedom he develops a knack for attracting it. To survive in the world, he must come up with a way to earn a living. Jack, a quick thinker and a lover of words, becomes an idea seller, convincing people to pay him with goods and money to hear his ideas. This story about making one’s way in the world is a short, fun read, full of rich and delicious language. St-Aubin’s illustrations add to the charm. To learn more about the author and her work, visit www.sarahellis.ca. To learn more about the illustrator, visit www.scholastic.ca.

Thematic Links: Dictionaries–Orphans–Ideas–Words–Language
The Book of Dreams  
(Chronicles of Faerie)

Written by O.R. Melling
Penguin Canada, 2003
Grades 8 – 12 (Ages 13 – 17)

A dark enemy has ruptured the ties between the human world and the fairy world thus dooming them both. It is up to the half-fairy, half-mortal Dana (of The Light-Bearer's Daughter) to bridge the worlds once more. The key to her quest rests in The Book of Dreams, a magic book hidden far from her home in Ireland. Her search for it takes her on an epic quest through a new world of peril and wonder. But she is not alone on her journey. Dana’s travel companions include Jean, a dashing young French Canadian who harbours secrets of his own, plus two veteran Companions of Faerie, Gwen (of The Hunter’s Moon) and Laurel (of The Summer’s King).

The Book of Dreams, which was a CCBC Our Choice 2004 selection, is the final installment in the Chronicles of Faerie quartet. To find out more about the author and her books, visit www.ormelling.com.

Thematic Links: Fantasy – Mythology – Magic – Quests

Come Like Shadows

Written by Welwyn Wilton Katz
Coteau Books, 1993
Grades 9-12 (Ages 14 – 17)

Kincardine (Kinny) O’Neil lands a summer job as an assistant on the Stratford Theatre Festival revival of Shakespeare’s Macbeth—a play thought to be cursed because unfortunate incidents have occurred to people involved in productions of it. A chain of unsettling incidents, including the electrocution of an actress, plague the festival’s Macbeth production. Kinny purchases an ancient mirror to be used as a prop for the play. Three mysterious women, revealed in the mirror, have power over the past and present and want something from Kinny.

This book was shortlisted for the 1993 Canadian Library Association’s Young Adult Canadian Book Award. Visit www.booksbywelwyn.ca to learn more about the author and her work, for a teacher’s guide to the book and for an interactive way to teach the play, Macbeth, using Come Like Shadows.

Thematic Links: Plays – Theatre – William Shakespeare – Scotland – Curses

Growing Up Ivy

Written by Peggy Dymond Leavey
Dundurn Press, 2010
Grades 5 – 11 (Ages 10 – 16)

This coming-of-age story, set during the Depression, unfolds in Toronto and Larkin, Ontario. When her mother leaves to land her big break as a stage actress in New York, Ivy must go to live with her strict paternal grandmother whom she has never met. Fortunately, Ivy has books and her writing to turn to for comfort and pleasure. During her stay, she meets her father Alva for the first time. He isn’t the dashing and heroic figure she had imagined but merely an illiterate peddler. Ivy becomes acquainted with her father and teaches him how to read during their summer travels, selling shoes across the countryside in a horse-drawn caravan. Upon her return to her grandmother’s home, Ivy befriends and dates Charlie Bayliss, with whom she shares a secret connection. Visit www.dundurn.com to obtain a teacher’s guide. Check out peggydymondleavey.com to learn more about the author and her work.

Thematic Links: Family – Writers – Illiteracy – Great Depression – 1930s – Abandonment – Historical Fiction

Living Outside the Lines

Written by Lesley Choyce
Red Deer Press, 2009
Grades 8 – 12 (Ages 13 – 17)

For a class assignment, Nigel pens a tale about a world in which adolescents become society’s guiding forces on medical, economic, political and social levels. The publication of his story as a book thrusts Nigel into the limelight and subjects him to praise and sometimes-violent opposition. Michelle is a stunning and smart classmate who suddenly appears on the scene. She is from the future where Nigel’s book has become a manual for the youth of her world. When Michelle has to return to her time, Nigel must decide whether to bid her adieu for good or accompany her in the future. Once he leaves, he can never return to the present, a time in which adolescents remain on the fringes of the realms of control and power. To find out more about the author and his young adult novels, visit youngadultnovels.blogspot.com.

Thematic Links: Power – Control – Love – Time Travel – School
A Perfect Gentle Knight

Written by Kit Pearson
Puffin Canada, 2007
Grades 6–10 (Ages 11–15)

This story, set in 1957, is narrated by 11-year-old Corrie Bell who is the middle child in her family. She and her siblings cope differently with their mother’s death and their father’s benign neglect. Her 14-year-old brother, Sebastian, starts a game of the Knights of the Round Table with his siblings as a form of escape. He views himself as Sir Lancelot in the game, and his ever-growing need for this outlet causes tension among his siblings. Corrie starts to wonder whether Sebastian has lost his grip on reality. This book was nominated for Saskatchewan’s 2008 Snow Willow Award as well as shortlisted for the 2007 Manitoba Young Readers’ Choice Award, the 2008 Ruth and Sylvia Schwartz Children’s Book Award, and B.C.’s 2009-2010 Red Cedar Book Award. Visit www.kitpearson.com to learn more about the author and her work.

Thematic Links: Death–Family–Grief–Mental Illness–1950s–Legends

A Question of Will

(Out of the World)

Written by Lynne Kositsky
Roussan Publishers, 2000
Grades 7–9 (Ages 12–14)

To wonder or not to wonder who is the true author of Shakespeare’s plays—that is the question. The authorship question refers to the longstanding debate over who wrote the plays that are thought to be written by the great bard himself. As a Shakespeare buff, it’s no surprise that Kositsky has chosen to tackle the question here. Perin Willoughby spends her summer in London, England, taking a course on Shakespeare. Her visit there takes a bizarre turn when she travels back to the past to Elizabethan times. Perin, who is mistaken for a boy, adopts the name “Willow” and is assigned to work as an apprentice to William Shakespeare at the Globe Theatre. It is while toiling her way up the ranks there that Willow learns of Edward de Vere who, several think, secretly wrote Shakespeare’s plays. When she returns to the present, Perin discovers she’s altered the course of history, and it is now de Vere’s name that appears on the covers of Shakespeare’s works. This book, which has garnered notable critical acclaim, was featured in the 2006 “Golden Lads and Lasses: Shakespeare for Children” exhibit, shown at Washington, D.C.’s Folger Shakespeare Library. To find out more about the author and her books, visit www.lynnekositsky.com.


A Riddle of Roses

Written by Caryl Cude Mullin
Second Story Press, 2000
Grades 8–12 (Ages 13–17)

This is a story about a girl who goes after her greatest goal with gusto. Meryl is a 13-year-old orphan who has trained as a storyteller and musician since she was seven years old. She embarks on a quest to the mythical land of Avalon to fulfill her lifelong dream of becoming a bard just like her mother was. Other characters, including a draili (tree-like creature) named Halstatt, join the girl on her journey. Meryl tackles a startling find, which takes her mind off her growing dissatisfaction about her vacation. While helping to dig a pond in the backyard, Peggy discovers that the object she’s been trying to unearth is not a rock but a human skull! She learns that the seaside town was constructed on top of a 5,000-year-old Coast Salish fishing village. With the aid of an elderly female archaeologist named Eddy, Peggy gets to know the ancient storyteller buried in the backyard in a unique way—by reading the bones. As life with her relatives grows more intolerable, she turns to the old Salish man of the past for answers. This book was nominated for the 2009 Ontario Library Association Silver Birch Award. To learn more about the author and her work, visit www.ginabooks.com.

several challenges en route to her destination. When she arrives in Avalon, she wrestles with the difficult decision of whether or not to hasten her education to become a bard but risk insanity by drinking from the cauldron of Ceridwen. This book was a CCBC Our Choice 2000 selection. It was also nominated for Nova Scotia’s 2001-2002 Hackmatack Children’s Choice Book Award (English-Fiction category). Mullin, a Montreal author, has penned the young adult novel, Rough Magic, which is inspired by Shakespeare’s play, The Tempest. Thematic Links: Storytellers–Musicians–Bards–Avalon–Quests–Celtic Mythology–Fantasy

The Sower of Tales
Written by Rachna Gilmore
Fitzhenry & Whiteside, 2005
Grades 5–9 (Ages 10–14)

Thirteen-year-old Calantha is a strong-willed girl who adores story pods. Despite her mother’s dismay, the girl yearns to be a Gatherer of Pods. A person serving in this role selects the story pod for the nightly Talemeet, at which villagers gather to hear the tale that emerges from the pod. When the story pods stop growing, Calantha embarks on a perilous journey to seek assistance from the Sower of Tales. The girl is thrust into a desperate struggle with a sorcerer who schemes to use the story pods to destroy the world. The Sower of Tales was a CCBC Our Choice 2006 selection and was nominated for both the Ontario Library Association’s 2006 Red Maple Book Award and the 2007 Manitoba Young Readers’ Choice Award. For more information about the author or her books, visit rachnagilmore.ca. A teacher’s guide for the book is also available on the site. Thematic Links: Fantasy–Quests–Storytelling

The Story Box
Written by Monica Hughes
HarperCollins Canada, 1998
Grades 7–12 (Ages 12–17)

Ariban is an idyllic island where elders forbid the telling of stories. It is also a sin to share dreams or remember traditions. During a storm, a foreigner named Jennifer is swept ashore there. Sixteen-year-old Colin rescues the half-drowned girl, who is unwelcome in his village because she is a storyteller. Jennifer possesses a chest of books, called a story box, which is more valuable to her than jewels or gold. Not long after her appearance, she is suspected of causing two deaths in the community. The villagers demand that two lives be taken in exchange for the two lives that have been lost. Where does this leave Jennifer and Colin, and what will become of them? This book was shortlisted for the Ontario Library Association’s 2000 Red Maple Award. Hughes (1925-2003) wrote over 30 books for young people. Author-critic Sarah Ellis has dubbed her Canada’s finest writer of science fiction for children. Thematic Links: Storytelling–Totalitarianism–Fear–Freedom–Truth–Dreams–Imagination

When I Went to the Library: Writers Celebrate Books and Reading
Edited by Debora Pearson
Groundwood Books, 2001
Grades 7–12 (Ages 12–17)

Public libraries worldwide are instrumental in exposing young people to the real and imagined worlds found within the pages of books. This nine-story collection celebrates libraries, books and reading. In Ken Roberts’ “Dear Mr. Winston,” Cara writes an apology to an ophidiophobic librarian for the mayhem she causes when she brings a snake to the library. In Sarah Ellis’s “The Fall and Rise of the Cut-Out Family,” a family of four who’ve been fashioned from store flyers discover their true nature when they learn they’re made of words. In Budge Wilson’s “Carlotta’s Search,” library books offer a girl information about leukemia and give her comfort and the strength to deal with her mother’s bout with it. Celia Barker Lotttridge’s “Anna Marie’s Library Book and What Happened to It” tells of what happens when the title character borrows a library book, which a plethora of people then in turn borrow from one another over the course of her one-week loan. In Jean Little’s “Mrs. Grinny Pig, Tiggie Wiggle, and Henry,” a boy loses his hedgehog at the library and then finds it in the boot of the librarian whom he dislikes and who teases him. Ken Setterington’s “Rose’s Wish,” Paul Yee’s “Fly Away,” Marc Talbert’s “Books Don’t Cry” and Tim Wynne-Jones’ “The Mystery of the Cuddly Wuddly Bunny” are the other...
tales that round out the collection. The stories featured here were previously unpublished and specially commissioned for this anthology. The collection opens with an introduction written by Michele Landsberg, a notable Canadian authority on children’s books. Short biographies of the contributors are also provided. 

**Thematic Links:** Short Stories—Anthologies—Libraries—Books—Reading

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**Poetry**

**BookSpeak! Poems About Books**

Written by Laura Purdie Salas
Illustrated by Josée Bisaillon
Clarion, 2011
Grades 2–6 (Ages 7–11)

Hey, hey, come this way and listen to what the books have to say! This collection features poems where books get to speak for themselves. Readers catch an inside look at the raucous parties in the aisles when all the lights go out at the bookstore; book characters beg for sequels; book jackets strut their stuff and more! Bisaillon, a Quebec illustrator, employs a blend of collage, drawings and digital montage, which create richly coloured spreads full of charm and action. Visit joseebisaillon.com to learn more about the illustrator and her work.

**Thematic Links:** Poetry—Books

**I Am the Book**

Poems selected by Lee Bennett Hopkins
Illustrated by Yayo
Holiday House, 2011
Grades 2–6 (Ages 7–11)

With his acrylic artwork rendered on canvas, Montreal illustrator Yayo lends a playful spirit to this delightful collection of 13 poems celebrating books and reading. Readers will enjoy the task of looking for the book that the artist has cleverly and seamlessly incorporated into each illustration. North Vancouver children’s poet Avis Harley is the other Canadian involved in this project. Her contribution to the collection is a poem called “This Book,” which reads like this: “This book is just right—/
I’m reading by flashlight deep into the night / Deliciously thirsty to see how it ends. / Books are such mind-thrilling / Spine-tingling friends.” To learn more about the contributors, readers can consult the book’s “About the Poets” section. To read an interview with Harley, visit missrumphuisafeffect.blogspot.com. Visit www.illustrationquebec.com to see samples of Yayo’s artwork. The illustrator will be touring as part of TD Canadian Children’s Book Week 2012.

**Thematic Links:** Poetry—Books—Reading

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**Biography**

**Arctic Adventures: Tales from the Lives of Inuit Artists**

Written by Raquel Rivera
Illustrated by Jirina Marton
Groundwood Books, 2007
Grades 3–7 (Ages 8–12)

Rivera pairs stories with biographies to pay tribute to four Inuit artists:

Pudlo Pudlat, Kenojuak Ashevak, Jessie Oonark and Lazarusie Ishulutak. The stories are based on ones told by the artists of real-life events that happened to them. “Pudlo and Kapik Go Hunting” tells of a man who is separated from his nephew when the boy is carried out to sea on an ice floe. In “Kenojuak and the Goddess of the Sea,” a hunter and three children, during their duck hunt, encounter the mythical ruler of sea animals. “Oonark’s Arctic Adventure” tells of a mother and daughter’s struggle to survive when they find themselves stranded. And in “Lazarusie and the
Polar Bears,” there’s a showdown between the Arctic’s two top predators: man and Nanuq (polar bear). Each biography is supplemented with a photo of the artist and a sample of his or her work. An author’s note, map indicating where the stories took place, glossary and further reading list are included. This book was a CCBC Best Books for Kids & Teens 2008 starred selection. To learn more about the author, the illustrator and some of their work, visit www.groundwoodbooks.com.

**Thematic Links:** Inuit Artists—Northern Canada—Inuit Art

**Believing in Books: The Story of Lillian Smith (Stories of Canada)**

Written by Sydell Waxman
Illustrated by Patty Gallinger and Liz Milkau
Napoleon Publishing, 2002
Grades 5–12 (Ages 10–17)

This is the story of Lillian Smith who spread the magic of storytelling and books to children around the globe. In 1912, this Canadian made history when she became the first children’s librarian in the British Empire.

Smith’s childhood love of books led her on a mission to share this passion with children, to connect them with books and to promote the importance of children’s literature worldwide.

The life of this lesser-known figure is presented in accessible text enhanced by drawings, photos, sidebars and quotes. This is the first biography of Lillian Smith. It is part of the Stories of Canada series, which introduces readers to Canadians who have made significant contributions to the world.

To learn more about the author and her books, visit www.sydellwaxman.com.

**Thematic Links:** Children’s Librarians—Books—Libraries—Children’s Literature

**Born to Write: The Remarkable Lives of Six Famous Authors**

Written by Charis Cotter
Annick Press, 2009
Grades 4–7 (Ages 9–12)

What do Christopher Paul Curtis, Philip Pullman, Lucy Maud Montgomery, Madeleine L’Engle, E.B. White and C.S. Lewis have in common? As children, they found comfort in their fertile imaginations and their love of books. Explore how the childhoods of these six authors helped shape the stories that would make them literary luminaries. Learn about other authors who inspired and influenced the work of Curtis, Pullman, Montgomery, L’Engle, White and Lewis. Photographs complete this insightful and intriguing biographical text, which includes a bibliography and an index. This book was a CCBC Best Books for Kids & Teens 2010 selection, finalist for both the 2011 Hackmatack Children’s Choice Book Award (English Non-Fiction) and the 2010 Norma Fleck Award for Canadian Children’s Non-Fiction. To learn more about the author and her books, visit www.chariscotter.com.

**Thematic Links:** Writers—Children’s Literature—Biography

**Ernie Coombs: Mr. Dressup**

Written by Trudy Duivenvoorden Mitic
Fitzhenry & Whiteside, 2005
Grades 3–6 (Ages 8–11)

Mitic tells of how American Ernie Coombs came to be the Canadian well-loved children’s television personality, Mr. Dressup. It isn’t surprising to learn that Coombs led an idyllic childhood in Maine, trained as a commercial artist and also worked in theatre prior to adopting the persona that would make him famous. The final segment of the Mr. Dressup show was taped on February 14, 1996, nearly 30 years after its debut. Coombs’s contribution to children’s television didn’t go unrecognized—he earned the Order of Canada in the same year his show ended. On September 18, 2001, he died due to complications from a stroke suffered eight days previously.

Though Mr. Dressup is no longer with us, new generations of children can continue to experience his magic courtesy of reruns. And this heartwarming and succinct biography, replete with black-and-white photographs, ensures that this generous and influential individual will not be soon forgotten.

**Thematic Links:** Biography—Children’s Television

**Lucy Maud Montgomery (Inspiring Lives)**

Written by Elizabeth MacLeod
Illustrated by John Mantha
Kids Can Press, 2008
Grades 1–3 (Ages 6–8)

Beginning readers meet the great
Canadian author, L.M. Montgomery (1874-1942), who became famous at home and abroad. They learn of her commitment to her craft and the creation of *Anne of Green Gables*, which ranks as her most-adored novel. This levelled reader, supported with illustrations, was a CCBC Best Books for Kids & Teens 2009 selection. To learn about the author Elizabeth MacLeod, visit www.kidscanpress.com. Visit www.johnmantha.com to learn more about the illustrator.

**Thematic Links:** Biographies–Canadian Authors–Women Writers–Prince Edward Island

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**Lucy Maud Montgomery: A Writer’s Life (Snapshots Biography)**

Written by Elizabeth MacLeod
Kids Can Press, 2001
Grades 3 – 6 (Ages 8 – 11)

L.M. Montgomery (1874-1942) thought she would eventually be regarded seriously as a writer. Not only did she come to earn a decent living as an author but she also became famous for her work in Canada and around the globe. Her best-loved book, *Anne of Green Gables*, is one of the most popular books ever written and has been translated into more than 20 languages. This biography explores Montgomery's struggle and determination to realize her dreams of becoming a writer through weaving events from her life into the fabric of her fiction. The author includes photographs, newspaper excerpts and pages from Montgomery's journal as well as a timeline and a list of related websites. This book was a CCBC Our Choice 2002 selection. It was also shortlisted for the Ontario Library Association’s 2002 Silver Birch Award and the 2003 Hackmatack Children's Choice Book Award. Learning materials for the book are available online at www.kidscanpress.com.

**Thematic Links:** Biographies–Canadian Authors–Women Writers–Prince Edward Island

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**Robert Munsch (Larger than Life)**

Written by Frank B. Edwards
 Fitzhenry & Whiteside, 2009
Grades 3 and up (Ages 8 and up)

As a boy, Robert Munsch was a solitary daydreamer and was considered a slow learner. He struggled in school but found solace in books at a young age. As an adult, he studied to become a Jesuit priest. After abandoning this religious career path, he discovered his gift for making up and telling stories while working with young children in a daycare and preschool. This talent has turned him into a bestselling author of 50 books, of which 30 million copies have been sold so far. This accessible and insightful biography, illustrated with photographs, addresses challenges that Munsch faced and overcame en route to becoming a picture book writing phenomenon. This book was a CCBC Our Choice 2001 starred selection. Though Fitch writes for young people and adults, she is best known for her children's poetry. To learn more about this award-winning author and her work, visit www.shereefitch.com.

**Thematic Links:** Writers–Children's Literature–Biography

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**Writing Maniac: How I Grew Up to be a Writer (and you can too!)**

Written by Sheree Fitch
Pembroke Publishers, 2000
Grades 3 – 7 (Ages 8 – 12)

Fitch offers an intimate glimpse into her journey as a writer and shares valuable insights geared to inspire young wordsmiths. This part-biography, part-how-to writing guide unfolds over the course of three chapters entitled “How I Grew Up to Be a Writer,” “Ideas Here, There, and Everywhere” and “Being a Writing Maniac.” The author supplements the main text with writing exercises and story starters, which appear in the margins and at the end of chapters. Black-and-white photographs complete this inspiring and insightful text that contains a glossary. This book was a CCBC Our Choice 2001 starred selection. Though Fitch writes for young people and adults, she is best known for her children's poetry. To learn more about this award-winning author and her work, visit www.shereefitch.com.

**Thematic Links:** Writers–Biography–Writing Process
Be a Writing Superstar
Written by Joel A. Sutherland
Illustrated by Patricia Storms
Scholastic Canada, 2010
Grades 6 – 8 (Ages 11 – 13)

This entertaining guide covers the ins and outs of the writing process, from thinking up ideas and formulating them on paper to hosting one’s very own book launch. But wait—that’s not all! It also features interviews in which 21 Canadian writers, including Robert Munsch, Gordon Korman, Mélanie Watt, Carol Matas and Kenneth Oppel, answer five silly questions about their writing. Visit www.joelasutherland.com to learn more about the author and to see excerpts from six of his flipbooks, visit www.patriciastorms.com.

Thematic Links: Authorship – Creative Writing – Writers

Flipbook Animation and Other Ways to Make Cartoons Move
Written by Patrick Jenkins
Kids Can Press, 1991
Grades 4 and up (Ages 9 and up)

Flipbooks consist of a series of drawings that vary gradually from page to page. When the pages are turned quickly, the drawings create a short, animated movie. In the introduction section, Patrick Jenkins covers the following: pads of paper used for creating flipbooks, drawing a character, stencils, moving your character, flipping pages, watching your movie, reinforcing the binding of your flipbooks and the two-page flip. He wraps up the text with instructions on how to create these four precursors of motion pictures: the thaumatrope, the phenakistoscope, the zoetrope and the praxinoscope. Black-and-white illustrations enhance this fun-filled and exciting guide to making simple movies, the paper way. To learn more about the author and to see excerpts from six of his flipbooks, visit www.patriciastorms.com.

Thematic Links: Animation – Cinematography – Cartooning

How a Book is Published
Written by Bobbie Kalman
Crabtree Publishing, 1995
Grades 3 – 6 (Ages 8 – 11)

Meet Bobbie Kalman. She is the author of 100+ books and editor-in-chief at Crabtree Publishing Company, which publishes children’s non-fiction titles. Here, Kalman guides readers on a tour through book publishing. She covers various aspects of this process, including research, writing/rewriting, editing, obtaining photographs and illustrations, photo shoots, design and printing. The author addresses the role of teamwork and brainstorming in book publishing. Kalman wraps up the text by offering advice to young authors. Colour photographs, a glossary and an index are included.

Thematic Links: Libraries – History

Lila & Ecco’s Do-It-Yourself Comics Club
Written and illustrated by Willow Dawson
Kids Can Press, 2010
Grades 3 – 6 (Ages 8 – 11)

Maureen Sawa knows a thing or two when it comes to libraries. She is currently the CEO for Greater Victoria Public Libraries and was an award-winning librarian with the Hamilton Public Library. In this book, she provides us with a fascinating look at the evolution of various types of libraries around the world. She discusses how individuals (past and current), as well as different writing and printing inventions, influenced the development of these institutions through time. She lists key titles that she used in writing the book (which contains an index) and suggests library Internet sites for readers to explore. Sawa’s focused and clearly written text is tinged with subtle humour, while Slavin’s colourful artwork is plentiful and lends extra personality to her detail-rich text. Visit www.billslavin.com to learn more about the book’s illustrator and his work.

Thematic Links: Libraries – History

The Library Book: The Story of Libraries from Camels to Computers
Written by Maureen Sawa
Illustrated by Bill Slavin
Tundra Books, 2006
Grades 6 and up (Ages 11 and up)

Maureen Sawa knows a thing or two when it comes to libraries. She is currently the CEO for Greater Victoria Public Libraries and was an award-winning librarian with the Hamilton Public Library. In this book, she provides us with a fascinating look at the evolution of various types of libraries around the world. She discusses how individuals (past and current), as well as different writing and printing inventions, influenced the development of these institutions through time. She lists key titles that she used in writing the book (which contains an index) and suggests library Internet sites for readers to explore. Sawa’s focused and clearly written text is tinged with subtle humour, while Slavin’s colourful artwork is plentiful and lends extra personality to her detail-rich text. Visit www.billslavin.com to learn more about the book’s illustrator and his work.

Thematic Links: Libraries – History
Twelve year olds Lila and Ecco are so obsessed with comics that each summer they attend the local comic book convention dressed as their favourite characters. This time around, when they happen upon a workshop of comic-book creators, they make the thrilling discovery that they can craft their own comic books. This part story, part instructional guide demonstrates how comics can be employed to share stories and convey what people want to say. Readers learn how to generate ideas and inspiration; create believable stories and characters and illustrate passage of time, motion and suspense. They also get tips and step-by-step instructions on colouring, inking, cover art and design, lettering, binding comics and oh so much more. This book was a CCBC Best Books for Kids & Teens 2011 selection. Willow Dawson publishes her own graphic novels and teaches comic workshops for young people. She will be touring during TD Canadian Children’s Book Week 2012. Visit www.willowdawson.com to learn more about this Toronto author-illustrator.

Thematic Links: Comics – Writing – Illustration – Bookbinding

Mother Goose Unplucked: Crazy Comics, Zany Activities, Nutty Facts and Other Twisted Tales on Childhood Favourites

Written by Helaine Becker
Illustrated by Claudia Dávila
Maple Tree Press, 2007
Grades 2 – 7 (Ages 7 – 12)

The Fairy Godmother is an advice columnist. Rapper Rapunzel is an impudent tweenager relegated to her attic room by her fed-up parents. The Big Bad Wolf, deemed armed and dangerous, is wanted for identity theft. Helaine Becker brings clever and comical modern-day twists to nursery rhymes and fairy tales (as we see from the above examples) in this funny, engaging, entertaining compendium of facts, cartoons, recipes, crafts, brain teasers, jokes, riddles, optical illusions and activities. Claudia Dávila’s bright and bold artwork heightens the humour of this chockablock collection of fun. This book was a finalist for the 2009 Hackmatack Children’s Choice Book Award. Visit www.helainebecker.com for lesson ideas for this book and to find out more about the author and her work. Visit www.claudiadavila.com to learn more about the illustrator.

Thematic Links: Nursery Rhymes – Fairy Tales

My Librarian is a Camel: How Books are Brought to Children Around the World

Written by Margriet Ruurs
Boyds Mills Press, 2005
Grades 3 and up (Ages 8 and up)

How do you get books to children who live in communities without libraries? With the aid of livestock (donkeys, elephants, horses, camels), snail mail, walking, boats and wheeled vehicles (including a wheelbarrow!) This inspiring photo essay, presented in colour, shows how these innovative modes of transportation are employed to deliver books to children living in remote areas of the world. Sidebars provide official names, capitals, estimated populations and other general information for the 13 featured countries: Australia, Azerbaijan, Canada, England, Finland, Indonesia, Kenya, Mongolia, Pakistan, Papua New Guinea, Peru, Thailand and Zimbabwe. Visit www.margrietruurs.com for a teacher’s guide and to learn more about the author and her books.

Thematic Links: Libraries – Travelling Libraries

The Quilt of Belonging: Stitching Together the Stories of a Nation

Written by Janice Weaver
Maple Tree Press, 2006
Grades 4 – 7 (Ages 9 – 12)

Visual artist Esther Bryan was inspired to create the Quilt of Belonging after she learned there was at least one person in Canada who came from every other country in the world. Of the quilt’s 263 fabric blocks, one represents Canada, 192 represent the world’s other 192 countries and 70 represent Canada’s First Nations, Métis and Inuit groups. Some blocks are embroidered, some are knitted and others are embellished with various materials such as beads, butterfly wings and porcupine quills. The quilt, created by volunteers between 1999 and 2005, is said to be the largest and most inclusive work of textile art made about Canada. Weaver highlights dozens of individual blocks and tells the stories of the groups they represent. She also offers readers
instructions on how they can create their own quilt of belonging with others. This book was a CCBC Our Choice 2007 selection and a finalist for the 2007 Hackmatack Children’s Choice Book Award.

**Thematic Links:** Quilts–Immigrants–Folk Art–Textiles–Culture–Heritage

**Writing Your Best Picture Book Ever**

Written by Kathy Stinson
Illustrated by Alan and Lea Daniel
Pembroke Publishers, 1994
Grades 3 – 7 (Ages 8 – 12)

Kathy Stinson walks wannabe word-smiths through the process of writing a picture book. She touches on such topics as getting ideas; establishing and developing character, setting, and plot; writing and reading the first draft and revising the story. Other aspects the author covers are reading one’s work aloud, having a first reader, illustrating one’s picture book, choosing a title and adding finishing touches to one’s work. She also prompts kids to consider who is their book’s audience, addresses commercial publication and discusses their growth as writers. A bibliography of the picture books she refers to in the book is provided. This book was a CCBC Our Choice 1995/96 selection. To learn more about the author and her books, visit [www.kathystinson.com](http://www.kathystinson.com). Check out [Danielart.ca](http://Danielart.ca) to learn about the husband-and-wife illustrator team.

**Thematic Links:** Creative Writing–Picture Books

**You Can’t Read This: Forbidden Books, Lost Writing, Mistranslations, and Codes**

Written by Val Ross
Tundra Books, 2006
Grades 5 and up (Ages 10 and up)

Val Ross (1950-2008) offers a history of reading that ranges from the ancient civilization of Mesopotamia to Taliban-ruled Afghanistan in 2001. This journey through time unfolds across 18 chapters, arranged in chronological order. Discover folks who attempted to sanitize the works of William Shakespeare. Find out about Louis Braille’s mission to bring the joy of reading to those who are blind. Explore how Frederick Douglass defied the laws that prevented slaves, including him, from learning to read. This trio of historical happenings, which all took place during the 1800s, are but a mere sampling of the fascinating accounts presented here. Thirty or so black-and-white illustrations and photographs appear throughout the text. Source notes and an index are included.

**Thematic Links:** History of Reading–Banned Literature
ABC Letters in the Library

This book is an abecedary because the first letter of each line spells out the alphabet.

Have students create a text of their choosing using their ABCs. They can write couplets (rhyming two-line texts) like Newfoundland’s Kevin Major did in his *Eh? to Zed: A Canadian ABeCeDarium* (Red Deer Press, 2000). Here is a sample from that book: “Canadarm, Cavendish, chinook, caribou / Dory, dinosaur, dulse, Dan McGrew.” Or they can write an abecedarian poem like B.C. poet Avis Harley’s “Wintering Over,” which appears in her collection *The Monarch’s Progress: Poems with Wings* (Boyd’s Mills Press/Wordsong, 2008). Here are the first seven lines from the poem: “Amazing / Blazing / Clusters / Decorate / Entire / Forest / Groves”.

Jeffrey and the Sloth

The sloth is the world’s slowest mammal and is an endangered species.

Have students conduct quick research on this animal and share their findings with the class. Jeffrey creates a sloth by drawing one. Students can make paper sloths using instructions available at [www.dltk-kids.com](http://www.dltk-kids.com). If you are up for the challenge, you can try to teach upper elementary-school students how to make origami sloths. Here is a website that shows you how to do so: [www.ehow.com](http://www.ehow.com).

An Ordinary School Day

Have your class write its own version of *An Ordinary School Day*. Decide on the first sentence of the story and write it at the top of a sheet of paper. Pass the paper on to the first student who will add the next sentence of the story based on the first sentence. Have this student fold the paper so that only his or her sentence will be visible to the next student who will then add his/her sentence. Continue this way until everyone has contributed a sentence to the story. Read the resulting story aloud.

Our Principal Promised to Kiss a Pig

After reading this story, why not introduce students to some of Shakespeare’s plays?

Ontario educator Lois Burdett has created a way to make this possible for the 12-and-under set. She has adapted seven of his plays (*Hamlet, Romeo and Juliet, Macbeth, A Midsummer Night’s Dream, The Tempest, Twelfth Night, Much Ado About Nothing*) for young people. Burdett has transformed the complex original text of these plays into rhyming couplets, thereby making them more accessible for elementary-school kids. Visit [www.fireflybooks.com](http://www.fireflybooks.com) for more details.

Read Me a Book

Barbara Reid created her trademark Plasticine artwork to illustrate this text, which she also wrote. Invite students to write a short text (12 lines or less) inspired by books, reading and libraries and to create a Plasticine illustration to accompany their writing.

**Taming Horrible Harry**
Harry first encounters a book when a girl he has frightened away from his tree accidentally leaves hers behind in her hurried escape from him. Speaking of leaving books behind and sharing them, why not have your class become a Book Crossing participant? Here is how the program works: you register a book (free of charge) and receive a Book Crossing ID, share your book with others through various options and track where your book travels to and who reads it. Visit www.bookcrossing.com to learn more about Book Crossing and to participate in the program.

**Young Authors’ Day at Pokeweed Public School**
Each year, Pokeweed School hosts a week dedicated to young authors. You could do the same at your school. This is the schedule that Pokeweed School follows for its special week. On Monday (Writing Day), students write stories. On Tuesday (Picture Day), students illustrate their stories. On Wednesday (Book Day), students turn their stories into books. Thursday is RAT (Read Aloud Time) when students share their stories with their classmates. On Friday (Young Authors’ Day), an author visits the school and gives a presentation to the students (known as young authors, of course).

**Junior Fiction**

**Bookweird and Bookweirder**
Due to a magical force known as Bookweird, Norman Jespers-Vilnius finds himself inside the books his family is reading and mixing up the plotlines of the stories that lie within these books. In fact, mixing up stories is what fractured fairy tales are all about. These stories are what you get when you take fairytale stories and change their plots, characters, settings or points of view. Visit www.readwritethink.org for lessons and resources you can use to get your students started on writing their own fractured fairy tales.

**Cave of Departure**
Dominique is a member of the Esto-rians, a clan that believes storytelling is the reason for their existence. But despite all of his efforts, he is still unable to tell a story.

Offer students the opportunity to learn and develop the skill of storytelling. Why not try draw-and-tell stories? They involve telling stories with a twist. Here is how they work: the storyteller draws part of a picture as s/he tells each part of the story and completes the drawing as s/he tells the final part of the story. Richard Thompson’s Frog’s Riddle & Other Draw-and-Tell Stories and Draw-and-Tell: Reading, Writing, Listening, Speaking, Viewing, Shaping (Annick Press, 1990) are two books that will get students drawing and telling stories in no time.

**A Girl Named Tennyson**
The title character’s name stems from the fact that Alfred, Lord Tennyson (1809-1892), is her mother’s favourite poet. He is considered one of the most popular poets in the English language. In 1850, Tennyson was appointed poet laureate of the United Kingdom and served in this role during much of Queen Victoria’s reign. Montreal artist Geneviève Côté illustrated his famous poem, “The Lady of Shallott,” for the Kids Can Press Visions in Poetry series. Ontario singer Loreena McKennitt also set the poem to music and recorded it as a song. After you have read “The Lady of Shallott” to students, they can listen to McKennitt’s sung ver-
The Several Lives of Orphan Jack

Jack loves words and has a rich vocabulary. In fact, his dictionary is one of his prized possessions and offers him great comfort. Celebrate this delightful book of word wonder by inviting students to play games using it. Merriam-Webster’s Word Central (wordcentral.com) offers an array of dictionary games for kids to play. Speaking of dictionaries, October 16th has been designated “Dictionary Day” in honour of the birthday of Noah Webster. This gentleman was an American lexicographer whose greatest claim to fame in the world of words is the Merriam-Webster Dictionary. Visit www.readwritethink.org for activities and resources inspired by the birthday of Noah Webster, the father of the American dictionary.

A Strange Case of Magic

Giles arranges for an invisible magician named Vikram to perform a magic show at the library in an attempt to help the magician find a way to make himself reappear.

Why not have students put on a magic show? They can learn how to perform magic tricks from books borrowed from the school or public library. Magical Fun, created by the editors of OWL and chickaDEE magazines (Greey de Pencier Books, 1991) and Mary Schendlinger’s Prepare to be Amazed: The Geniuses of Modern Magic (Annick Press, 2005) are two books that fit the bill. Students can perform for their classmates and take their show down the hall and perform for other classes, too.

Activities

Young Adult Fiction

Come Like Shadows

Here is a story that revolves around a revival of Shakespeare’s Macbeth at the Stratford Festival. This play is believed to be jinxed because misfortune has happened to those involved in productions of it. When inside theatres, superstitious folks call the work “the Scottish play” instead of by its actual name so as to avoid bringing bad luck to the production of the play. Following the reading of the book, why not take students on a field trip to Stratford, Ontario, to catch a performance of Macbeth or any other Shakespeare play at the Stratford Festival? If this is not possible, they can attend a local production of a Shakespeare play or watch a film version of one. (Note: To keep on the right side of copyright laws, you are expected to either obtain public performance rights for films you wish to show in class or obtain films that already have these included). Visit www.stratfordfestival.ca to learn about the Stratford Festival and to obtain study guides for Macbeth and other Shakespeare plays.

Growing Up Ivy

The characters Ivy Chalmers and Charlie Bayliss are young people growing up in Ontario during the Great Depression (1929–1939). Have students find out what life
was like during this period in their village, town or city. For example, La Bolduc (Mary Travers-Bolduc) was a Quebecoise singer who brought joy to francophones with her songs during this dark and difficult period. Students can conduct research by interviewing members of their family or community who were children or teenagers during the Depression or by consulting library and archival resources, which can be accessed in person or online. The following websites are ideal points for students to start their research: Canadian Museum of Civilization (www.civilization.ca/home), Canadian Encyclopedia (www.thecanadianencyclopedia.com), and the Historica Dominion Institute (www.historica.ca).

A Question of Will

The Shakespeare-authorship question refers to the debate on whether William Shakespeare really wrote the works that bear his name. Edward de Vere, the Earl of Oxford, is among the 70+ individuals that scholars have proposed as the true author of writings attributed to Shakespeare. De Vere (1550-1604) was an Elizabethan playwright, lyric poet, courtier, patron of the arts and sportsman. He is one of the characters in Roland Emmerich’s 2011 film, Anonymous, which revolves around several aspects of Elizabethan life, such as theatre and the Shakespeare-authorship question. Visit the film’s website at www.anonymous-movie.com. Students can watch the movie after they’ve read A Question of Will. Hold a discussion in which they can share their opinions on whether Shakespeare wrote none, some or all of the works that bear his name. Invite students to locate and consult reference sources that they can use to support their views.

Reading the Bones

Peggy’s discovery of the remains of an ancient Coast Salish storyteller is at the heart of this story. Two ideal books for introducing young people to the storytelling tradition of the First Nations people in question are Ellen White’s Kwulasulwut: Stories from the Coast Salish and Kwulasulwut II: More Stories from the Coast Salish, published by Theytus Books. (White is a Coast Salish elder who served a 13-year term as an elder-in-residence at Malaspina University College.) “Coast Salish Collections: Archaeology and Ethnology of the Gulf of Georgia,” available on the B.C. Heritage website (bcheritage.ca/salish), is a good source for exploring the archaeological theme of the story. As for sports, students can learn about Coast Salish canoe racing by visiting the Virtual Museum of Canada’s exhibit entitled “Living Traditions: Museums Honour the North American Indigenous Games,” available at www.museevirtuel-virtualmuseum.ca.

As for handicrafts, the National Film Board 2000 film, The Story of the Coast Salish Knitters, describes the origins of Cowichan sweaters, which are popular at home in Canada and abroad.

A Riddle of Roses and A Perfect Gentle Knight

Have students research the history of Avalon, including the story of King Arthur and his knights. Students could write a newspaper article from one of the significant days of King Arthur’s time: the day Excalibur was removed from the stone, the wedding day of King Arthur and Guinevere, the day when King Arthur’s tomb was said to be discovered at Glastonbury. Students could also write an essay arguing whether or not Avalon was a real place, using details and information from their research.

When I Went to the Library: Writers Celebrate Books and Reading

Vancouver Public Library’s central branch, Ottawa’s Library of Parliament, Montreal’s Grande Bibliothèque and the Toronto Reference Library are a mere quartet of the impressive and stunning libraries found in Canada. Take students on a field trip to one of these libraries or to any library and arrange for them to receive a guided tour during their visit. They just might be surprised by what they learn there. Students can also explore the themes of libraries, books and reading through writing short stories or poems, creating art (e.g., painting, drawing, collage, photography) or producing short video or audio podcasts.
Flipbook Animation and Other Ways to Make Cartoons Move

When it comes to animation, flipbooks are just the beginning. Give your class the opportunity to participate in an animation workshop, offered at various locations of the National Film Board (NFB). If this option is not possible, you can invite a professional film-animation artist or film-animation student to your school to give a workshop to your students. Janet Perlman is a Montreal author-filmmaker whose two picture books by Kids Can Press, *The Delicious Bug* and *Cinderella Penguin*, actually started out as animated films. The NFB has also created *Talespinners*, animated films that are adaptations of picture books. Students can gain inspiration for creating their own animation projects by watching excerpts of Perlman’s films at www.janetperlman.com and watching some of the films from the Talespinners series at www.nfb.ca.

Mother Goose Unplucked: Crazy Comics, Zany Activities, Nutty Facts & Other Twisted Takes on Childhood Favourites

Nursery rhymes are great material from which to create parodies. A parody is a humorous, exaggerated imitation of an author, literary work, style, etc. Have kids try their hand at writing a parody in the form of a poem or a song. Barbara Wyn Klunder’s *Other Goose: Recycled Rhymes for Fragile Times* (Groundwood Books, 2007) will both entertain kids and inspire them to write parody poems. “Jack Be Nimble,” a poem from her book, reads as follows: “Jack be nimble / Jack be quick / Jack watch out / For that oil slick!” Weird Al Yankovic's claim to fame is crafting songs that spoof popular songs. For musical inspiration, kids can watch the video of his song “Eat It,” which is a parody of Michael Jackson’s “Beat It.”

How a Book is Published

Offer students the opportunity to learn first-hand about the various careers that make up the book industry and about the book-publishing process itself. This could be done in the format of individual guest visits to the class, field trips, a panel discussion, a career day or a mix of all or some of these options. Literary agent, author, editor, illustrator, publisher, proofreader, designer, publicist, bookseller, reviewer and librarian are some book-industry careers that could be highlighted and explored.

My Librarian is a Camel

If children can’t get to a library, then a library must go to them, right? Luis Soriano is an elementary-school teacher who lives in La Gloria, Colombia. Since 1990, during his free time, he has been delivering books to children residing in rural villages. He achieves this task with “El Biblioburro,” his mobile library drawn by two donkeys named Alfa and Beto. To date, Soriano has changed the lives of more than 4,000 youngsters. To watch a short video feature about this determined and driven man and his project, visit edition.cnn.com.

Locate a mobile library that operates in your community or as near it as possible. Find out how your students can lend assistance to those who offer this service.

The Quilt of Belonging: Stitching Together the Stories of a Nation

One, two, three... it’s a quilting bee! Turn your students on to this folk art, which can be practised on as small or as large a scale as desired. Biz Storms’ *Quilting* (Kids Can Press, 2001), illustrated with colour photographs, is an ideal book to get you started. Another valuable resource is www.thecraftstudio.com/qwc, created by Heddi Craft, a teacher who has been making quilts with children for years. Quilts for Kids (www.quiltsforkids.org) refers to a host of volunteer quilters who transform fabrics into patchwork quilts that comfort children in need. If there isn’t a chapter of the organization located near you, your community can start its own.
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Young Authors’ Day at Pokeweed Public School 7, 22
Award-winning illustrator Janice Nadeau created the beautiful image for Book Week 2012. Janice’s image embraces our Book Week theme—Read a Book, Share a Story.

“On my illustration, there is a central character, a librarian, who is reading a book to the children gathered around her. On the cover, we see that the story she’s reading is about the two creatures at the entrance of the library. I was inspired by the beautiful entryway of the Lillian H. Smith library branch.”

Janice Nadeau studied Graphic Design at the Université du Québec à Montréal and at the École supérieure des arts décoratifs de Strasbourg (France), and worked as an art director in advertising agencies. She has illustrated a number of books and is a three-time recipient of the Governor General’s Literary Award for Illustration, Canada’s most prestigious literary prize.

Her evocative, poetic and sophisticated style is a mix of retro and modern. Through her soft watercolours, a fine and intricate line work can be seen. A multitude of details, often humorous, bring a rich touch to her compositions. She likes to explore different applications of her medium, whether it’s illustrating books or designing textiles.

For more information about Janice and her work, please visit her website at www.janicenadeau.com.