



An initiative of the Association of Canadian Publishers

www.publishers.ca/topgrade

Dear Educator,

TOP GRADE is back with another list of new and recently published books, free of charge for your sampling enjoyment. What's new? We're pleased to present our first dramatic arts book, which joins a wide range of excellent language arts titles. Books on Aboriginal studies are well represented, along with science and nature books, and there is a good array of history and sports books, too. **TOP GRADE** offers something for everyone.

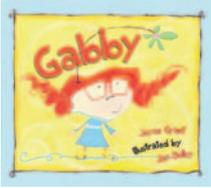
As always, we are gratified by your comments about the selection of topics, their timeliness for teaching, and the quality of the material. We value your feedback as do the publishers, and we listen. Based on the success of materials to elementary schools, we are piloting a **TOP GRADE** program to high schools this spring. Because of your enthusiasm on their success, we have shared some of your great ideas such as starting 'TOP GRADE Book Clubs' and mounting library displays in schools and at the board level. Here's to seeing a full complement of high schools with Top Grade next fall!

Your comments are welcome anytime. We will send a follow-up survey before the school year is over so you can tell us how you have used the material and what colleagues and students found useful and appealing. If you can't wait, please write us at top.grade@canbook.org. It's terrific to connect with keen teachers across the country.

We encourage you to visit the publisher sites to download additional material on authors and collections suitable for schools. Be sure to tell your school and library wholesaler vendors. They, too, welcome your feedback as well as your **TOP GRADE** orders.

Thank you again for your incredible support. We couldn't do it without you. Here's to a first-rate, **TOP GRADE** spring!

THE TOP GRADE PARTICIPATING PUBLISHERS
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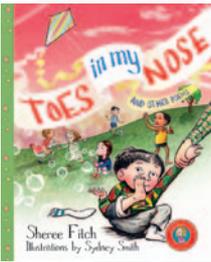


Gabby

Joyce Grant, Illustrated by Jan Dolby

Gabby reaches up, up, up, to put away her last book when suddenly, the book tumbles out of her hand and the letters inside scatter around her playroom! Before Gabby can collect them all, the letters take on a life of their own, “spelling” disaster! Will Gabby manage to tame her new “word-mates” and show them how letters can also make “f-r-i-e-n-d-s?”

FITZHENRY & WHITESIDE | 97815544552504 | \$18.95 | HC | Ages 4-6 | Grades K-2
Language Arts | Visual Arts | Literacy

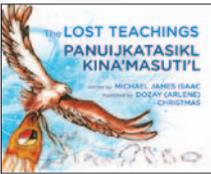


Toes in My Nose

Sheree Fitch, Illustrated by Sydney Smith

Silly and outrageous, *Toes in My Nose* is the book that launched Sheree Fitch's career. This book contains some of the best-loved poems in Canadian children's literature. In this 25th anniversary edition, Sydney Smith's award-winning illustrations portray a neighbourhood of kids flying to the moon, playing banjo with orangutans, and bathing with submarines. *Toes in My Nose* will introduce a whole new generation to Sheree Fitch's magnificent imagination.

NIMBUS PUBLISHING | 9781551099392 | \$19.95 | HC | Ages 4-9 | Grades K-4
Poetry | Wordplay | Ebook available
Also available: *There Were Monkeys in My Kitchen* by Sheree Fitch, illustrated by Sydney Smith



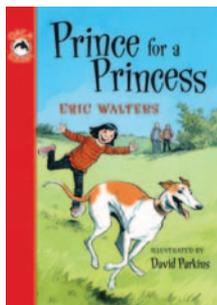
The Lost Teachings/Panuijkatasikl Kina'masuti'l

Michael James Isaac, Translated by Yolanda Denny

Illustrated by Dozay (Arlene) Christmas

With beautiful illustrations by Dozay (Arlene) Christmas, *The Lost Teachings* allows the reader to reconnect to and understand the seven teachings and their meaning in relation to themselves and society as a whole. This is a story about the importance of the seven teachings—wisdom, respect, love, honesty, humility, courage and truth—and how interconnected they are in achieving balance, harmony and peace.

ROSEWAY PUBLISHING | 9781552665343 | \$14.95 | PB | Ages 5-10 | Grades K-5
Aboriginal Studies | Language Arts | Social Studies
Also available: *How the Cougar Came to be Called the Ghost Cat/Ta'n Petalu Telui'tut Skite'kmujewey Mia'waj* by Michael James Isaac, illustrated by Dozay (Arlene) Christmas



Prince for a Princess

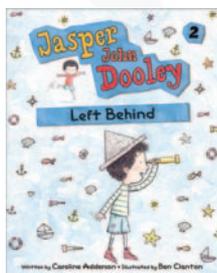
Eric Walters, Illustrated by David Parkins

Seven-year-old Christina desperately wants a dog. When she visits a kennel with her parents, she comes home with Prince, a greyhound recently retired from his champion racing career. Christina is thrilled and spends all her time with her new pal. They are like two peas in a pod. But one day, when Prince is left alone in the backyard, he escapes. Christina's mother searches everywhere for him only to find him at the schoolyard gate waiting for Christina.

ORCA BOOK PUBLISHERS | 9781459802001 | \$6.95 | PB | Ages 7-9 | Grades 2-3

Language Arts | Ebook available | Teacher guide available

Also available: *The Matatu* by Eric Walters, illustrated by Eva Campbell



Jasper John Dooley: Left Behind

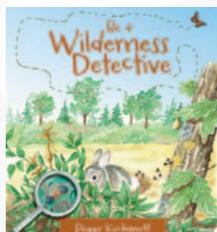
Caroline Adderson, Illustrated by Ben Clanton

Jasper John Dooley: Left Behind is the second in a series of chapter books featuring a charismatic and funny central character. An only child with active, loving parents (and a most impressive lint collection), Jasper John Dooley is a true original.

KIDS CAN PRESS | 9781554535781 | \$16.95 | HC | Ages 7-9 | Grades 2-4

Language Arts | Early Reading | Chapter Books

Also available: *Jasper John Dooley: Star of the Week* by Caroline Adderson, illustrated by Ben Clanton



Be a Wilderness Detective

Written & Illustrated by Peggy Kochanoff

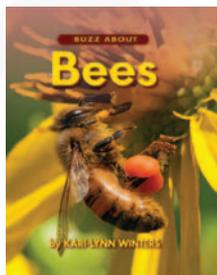
Why is that tree lumpy? How do insects stay alive in the winter? What are tides, anyway? In *Be a Wilderness Detective*, biologist Peggy Kochanoff answers these and many more questions. With simple language and beautiful paintings, Kochanoff walks young readers through many nature puzzles. *Be a Wilderness Detective* is the perfect book for

budding naturalists—and it will also convince couch potatoes to get outside. Science and nature have never been more fun!

NIMBUS PUBLISHING | 9781771080125 | \$14.95 | PB | Ages 7-9 | Grades 2-4

Science | Nature | Environment | Ebook available

Also available: *Eagle of the Sea* by Kristin Bieber Domm, illustrated by Jeffrey Domm

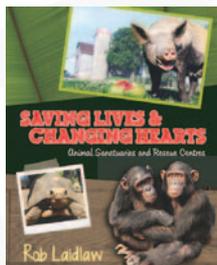


Buzz About Bees

Kari-Lynn Winters

A new addition to the series that includes *Lowdown on Earthworms*, *Buzz About Bees* follows the same formula offering an in-depth look at an endangered and vital part of the natural world. Accompanying information about the history, social structure and science behind the world of bees and honey are conservation activities to make the world a place where hives of bees can thrive.

FITZHENRY & WHITESIDE | 9781554552023 | \$19.95 | HC | Ages 8-10 | Grades 3-5
Science | Language Arts | Environment | Also available: *Focus on Flies* by Norma Dixon



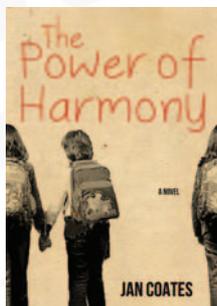
Saving Lives and Changing Hearts

Animal Sanctuaries and Rescue Centres

Rob Laidlaw

Enraptured with raptors? Love lions? Protective of pelicans? Rob Laidlaw's latest has something for everyone. Having exposed the cruel treatment of animals in zoos and the entertainment industry with his previous two books, Laidlaw sets out to show a more positive side of the human-animal relationship: animal sanctuaries. From a donkey sanctuary in Canada to a bear rescue centre in China, this book examines global efforts to rescue and care for animals in need.

FITZHENRY & WHITESIDE | 9781554552122 | \$18.95 | HC | Ages 8-10 | Grades 3-5
Science | Language Arts | Animal Rights | Also available: *On Parade* by Rob Laidlaw

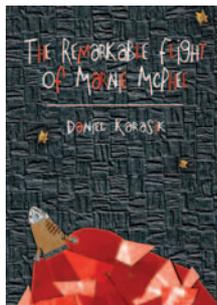


The Power of Harmony

Jan Coates

Jennifer's best friend has moved away and she has become the sole focus for bullies at school. But when the new girl, Melody, joins their class, the bullies have a new victim. Melody is native and has moved from the recently closed residential school to join the fifth grade class. Set in a small town in the coal mining regions of Nova Scotia during the late 1960s, this is a story of discovery and friendship.

RED DEER PRESS | 9780889954953 | \$12.95 | PB | Ages 8-10 | Grades 3-5
Language Arts | Aboriginal Studies | History
Also available: *A Hare in the Elephant's Trunk* by Jan Coates

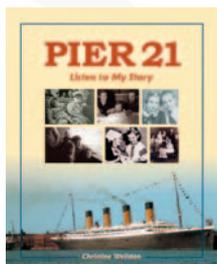


The Remarkable Flight of Marnie McPhee

Daniel Karasik

Meet Marnie McPhee, aspiring astronaut and possible Martian. Convinced she's not like the rest of her family, nine-year-old Marnie decides it's time to leave Earth and take her place among the stars. But as she builds her spaceship, she realizes maybe Earth isn't so bad after all, even if it's filled with human families. *The Remarkable Flight of Marnie McPhee* is a charming story of the infinite reaches of the imagination and the pleasure of dreaming.

PLAYWRIGHTS CANADA PRESS | 9781770911260 | \$16.95 | PB | Ages 8-10 | Grades 4-6
Dramatic Arts | Language Arts | Ebook available | Also available: *The Crossing Guard + In Full Light*

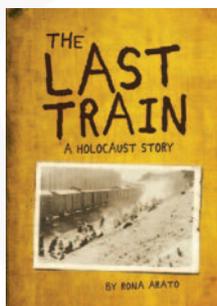


Pier 21 *Listen to My Story*

Christine Weldon

Pier 21 accepted over one million new Canadians between 1928 and 1971. Many were nervous about their new home, but although they arrived from distinct countries and cultures, each family embraced the possibility of a life in Canada. This book provides an excellent introduction for children to this key landmark in Canada's immigration history. Discover one of the most important moments of Canada's history by getting to know the children and their families who arrived through Pier 21.

NIMBUS PUBLISHING | 9781551099095 | \$15.95 | PB | Ages 8-11 | Grades 3-6
Canadian History | Immigration | Diversity | Also available: *Children of the Titanic* by Christine Weldon

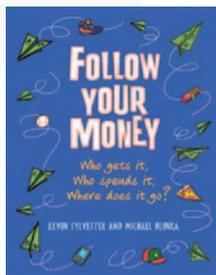


The Last Train *A Holocaust Story*

Rona Arato

The Last Train is the harrowing true story about young brothers Paul and Oscar Arato and their mother, Lenke, surviving the Nazi occupation during the final years of World War II. The book concludes when Paul, now a grown man living in Canada, stumbles upon photographs on the internet of his liberation. After writing to the man who posted the pictures, Paul has an opportunity to meet his rescuers — but first he must decide if he is prepared to reopen the wounds of his past.

OWLKIDS BOOKS | 9781926973623 | \$16.95 | HC | Ages 9-11 | Grades 4-6
Social Studies | History | Language Arts
Also available: *On a Canadian Day: Nine Story Voyages through History* by Rona Arato



Follow Your Money

Kevin Sylvester and Michael Hlinka, Illustrated by Kevin Sylvester

This kid-friendly guide looks at what happens to your money after you hand it to the cashier. Readers will be surprised to discover who gets what and why.

ANNICK PRESS | 9781554514809 | \$14.95 | PB | Ages 9-12
Grades 4-7 | Math

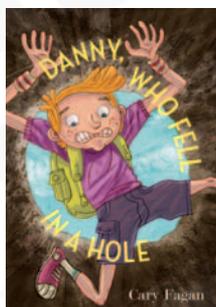


The Way Home

Becky Citra

Tory has been bumped from foster home to foster home for most of her nine years. Living with a new family on a horse ranch for the summer, she falls in love with a pony named Lucky. A forest fire forces them to evacuate and Lucky has to be left behind. But like Tory, Lucky is a survivor, and he escapes into the woods. Will pony and girl find each other again?

SECOND STORY PRESS | 9781927583012 | \$8.95 | PB | Ages 10-12 | Grades 4-6
Language Arts | Character Education | Ebook available
Also available: *A Long Way from Home* by Alice Walsh



Danny, Who Fell in a Hole

Cary Fagan, Illustrated by Milan Pavlovic

Danny finds himself stranded at the bottom of a giant construction hole, armed with nothing but his school backpack, his wits — and the company of a poetry-spouting mole... Drawing on his ingenuity, he provides himself with shelter (garbage bag and paper clips), cereal (coffee creamer, rainwater, granola bars and a few rogue raisins found at the bottom of his backpack) and a washroom (a hole in a hole). He even does his homework!

GROUNDWOOD BOOKS | 9781554983124 | \$9.95 | PB | Ages 8-12 | Grades 3-6
Language Arts | Independent Novel Study | Ebook available | Teacher guide available
Also available: *Banjo of Destiny* by Cary Fagan



Street Kings

Brad V. Cowan

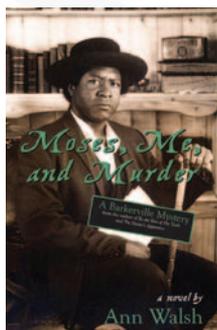
Cale Finch's plans for spring break? Eat, sleep, skate! Young skateboarder Cale's determined to ollie a set of stairs to prove himself to the Seven Stair Crew and earn his place in this youth subculture.

JAMES LORIMER & COMPANY | 9781459404502 | \$12.95 | PB

Ages 9-11 | Grades 4-6

Language Arts | Sports (Skateboarding) | Ebook available

Also available: *Game Face* by Sylvia Gunnery



Moses, Me and Murder

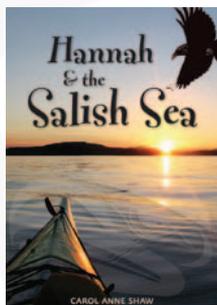
Ann Walsh

It's 1866 in gold-rush Barkerville, British Columbia, and a man has disappeared. Ted MacIntosh learns from the local barber Moses that his friend Charles has failed to arrive in town. What happened to him? Slowly, Ted and Moses unravel the story of a cruel murder.

DUNDURN | 9781459709676 | \$10.99 | PB | Ages 9-12 | Grades 5-7

Language Arts | History | Ebook available

Also available: *The Doctor's Apprentice* by Ann Walsh



Hannah & the Salish Sea

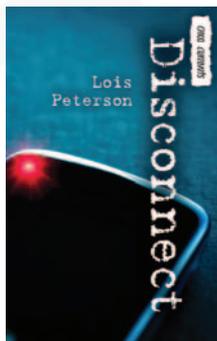
Carol Anne Shaw

Things are happening in Cowichan Bay that Hannah can't explain. A mysterious accident leads her to meet a Métis girl and starving eaglets. Why is Jack, her raven friend, bringing her unusual "gifts"? What's with the "supposedly" abandoned tunaboat, Orca 1? After a grisly discovery, the teens know they must take action and are soon in a fight for their own lives as well as the lives of the animals being hunted for their parts.

RONSDALE PRESS | 9781553802334 | \$11.95 | PB | Ages 10-14 | Grades 4-7

English – Literature | Aboriginal Studies | Science – Ecology | Ebook available

Also available: *Hannah & the Spindle Whorl* by Carol Anne Shaw



Disconnect

Lois Peterson

Since moving hundreds of miles to a new school, Daria has become increasingly dependent on her cell phone. Texts, Facebook and phone calls are her only connection to her friends in Calgary, and Daria needs to know everything that is going on at home to feel connected to her old life. Her cell phone habit looks a lot like addiction to her mother and to her new friend Cleo. Daria dismisses the idea of technology addiction as foolish until her habit puts a life in danger.

ORCA BOOK PUBLISHERS | 9781459801431 | \$9.95 | PB | Ages 10-14 | Grades 5-8

Language Arts | Ebook available | Teacher guide available

Also available: *Beyond Repair* (Orca Currents) by Lois Peterson



Accord de Puissance (*Power Chord*)

Ted Staunton

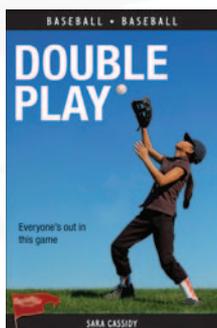
Ace and his best friend Denny notice that girls like musicians, no matter how dorky the dudes might be. So they start a band, and Ace discovers that he loves playing music more than anything he's done in his life. Fueled by Denny's tweets and a sound guaranteed to make cats barf, the band takes flight until a contest draws them into conflict.

French edition of *Power Chord*.

ORCA BOOK PUBLISHERS | 9781459803114 | \$9.95 | PB | Ages 10-14 | Grades 5-8

Language Arts | French-Second-Language | Ebook available

Also available: *Accro d'la Planche* (French Currents)



Double Play

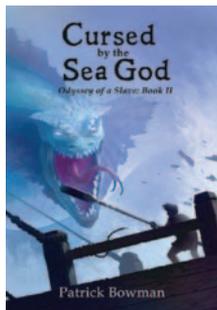
Sara Cassidy

When Allie is invited to pitch for the boys' baseball team, her new step-brother announces he's going to play for the girls' team. Is he just trying to annoy her or does he reveal a double standard in baseball?

JAMES LORIMER & COMPANY | 9781459403789 | \$9.95 | PB

Ages 11-13 | Grades 6-8 | Language Arts | Sports (Baseball)

Gender Roles | Ebook available | Also available: *Replay* by Steven Sandor



Cursed by the Sea God *Odyssey of a Slave, Book II*

Patrick Bowman

The second volume in this re-imagining of Homer's *Odyssey*, contains many of the iconic adventures, including the encounter with the keeper of the winds, descent into Hades, visit to the cannibal Laestrygonians, encounters with the sorceress, songs of the Sirens, and deadly passage between the monster Scylla and the whirlpool Charybdis. Alexi loses the respect he earned through saving his master's life, and uses all of his skill and determination to stay alive.

RONSDALE PRESS | 9781553801863 | \$11.95 | PB | Ages 12-14 | Grades 6-8
English – Literature | Ebook available | Also available: *Torn from Troy* by Patrick Bowman



Nix Minus One

Jill MacLean

Quiet, out of shape, and bold only around his neighbour's neglected dog, Nix Humbolt is the polar opposite of his vibrant sister Roxy. But he'd do anything for her, even help her hide her late-night partying from their parents. And when Roxy goes too far, Nix feels like it's his life that's spiraling out of control.

PAJAMA PRESS INC. | 9781927485255 | \$14.95 | PB | Ages 12-14 | Grades 7-9
Language Arts | Social Issues | Death & Dying

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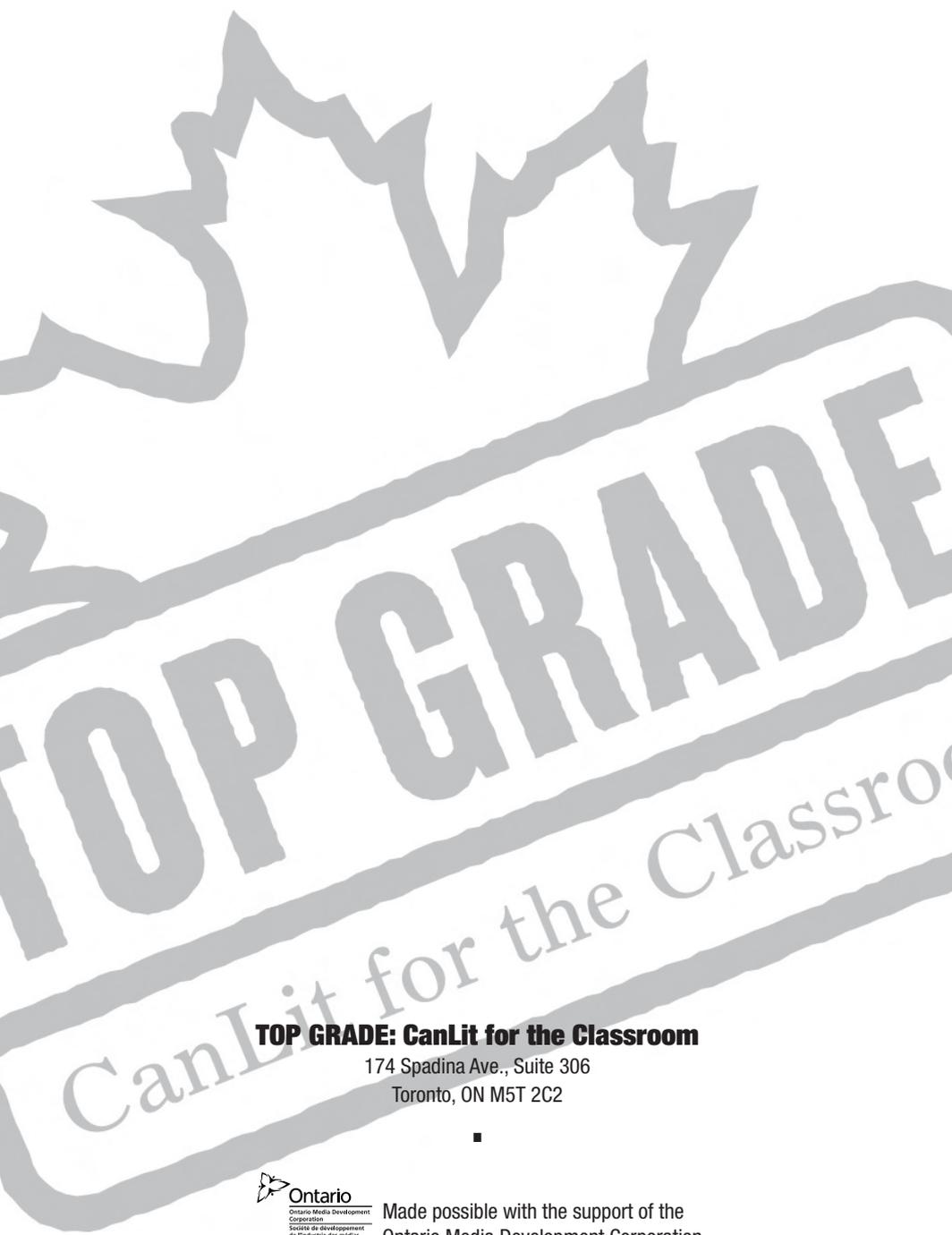
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