

# READ UP ON IT

2005-2006

## A WISH FOR PEACE



Illustration: Ron Lightburn / Design: Expression Communications Inc.

A SELECTION OF CANADIAN BOOKS FOR YOUNG PEOPLE



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Original artworks: Todd Bennett and Ange Zhang

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- Hockey
- Family history
- Stamp collecting

— Other ideas?

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# READ UP ON IT

## A WISH FOR PEACE

Compiled by Alfonsina Clemente, Josiane Polidori and Daniel St-Hilaire  
Children's Literature Service

Ottawa 2005–2006

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Year of the Veteran • Année de l'ancien combattant



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# A WISH FOR PEACE

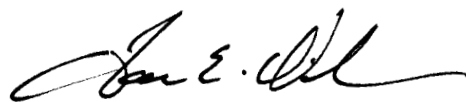
In this year, the 60th anniversary of the end of the Second World War, *Read Up On It* explores the universal themes of war, conflict resolution and peace. These topics are complex and difficult to address at any level, and special care must be taken when presenting them to children. Library and Archives Canada wishes to highlight the important contributions of Canadian publishers and authors of children's literature who produce outstanding books on this type of subject.

An annual Library and Archives Canada publication, *Read Up On It* presents a selection of Canadian books for young people. These books are aimed at beginning readers and teenagers, as well as parents, volunteers and teachers who read aloud to small children. The selection of titles is also an excellent resource for family and community literacy initiatives, since it provides information on quality books that can be shared by parents, grandparents and children, and strengthens ties between generations.

The goal of *Read Up On It* is to make known Canadian authors and illustrators, and to encourage the reading of Canadian children's literature. Each year, the guide reaches an audience of nearly 40,000 teachers, librarians and parents who are eager to keep young readers up to date.

It is my hope that this year's theme will foster much reflection, thought and inspiration. May your year be filled with the pleasures and benefits of reading!

Ian E. Wilson



Librarian and Archivist of Canada

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[WWW.COLLECTIONSCANADA.CA/READ-UP-ON-IT](http://WWW.COLLECTIONSCANADA.CA/READ-UP-ON-IT)

## “A WISH FOR PEACE” AS THEME

Books for young people selected for this year’s theme explore war and armed conflict through a number of literary genres. Novels and historical narratives, anthologies, documentaries, memoirs, personal diaries and picture books are some of the formats used by the authors. The approaches to this difficult topic and the vocabularies used are appropriate to the various age groups for whom the stories are written.

The works chosen cover a range of historical periods: from confrontations between various colonies of the New World, to more modern conflicts involving Canada, such as the two world wars. The selection also includes several books about the Holocaust. More recent hostilities examined include the war in Afghanistan and the civil wars in Rwanda and the former Yugoslavia. Other books look at war and peace through events in imaginary places and countries. Many of the selected publications feature children and teenagers who have witnessed or been the victims of battles and deportations; several tell of the effects of war on young refugees.

A number of the historical accounts and novels highlighted present protagonists who are directly involved in the conflicts: as messengers, for example, or as first-aid workers. Most of the novels end on a note of hope – the main characters finally make their way home, find lost loved ones, or become part of a new, extended family.

## THEME SELECTION PROCESS

The Children’s Literature Service of Library and Archives Canada bases its annual theme selection process on a number of factors. First, it examines the school programs of each province in order to identify shared subjects and themes that are likely to interest young people. Potential subjects are then evaluated to ensure that they can be represented by a significant group of Canadian works, available in English and French. While this work is proceeding, Children’s Literature Service staff solicit comments and suggestions from education and book-publishing professionals who attend the many presentations and conferences held each year in the realm of children’s literature. Further research establishes whether a sufficient number of recent books published within the last five years relate to the theme in question. This annual selection process gets under way as soon as the latest edition of *Read Up On It* is ready for publication.

## SELECTION CRITERIA FOR THE 2005–2006 EDITION OF *READ UP ON IT*

- Books published in Canada or abroad for which the author or illustrator is Canadian.
- Books available through bookstores, publishers, and public or school libraries.
- Books in English or French that take into account the geographic distribution and multicultural diversity of Canada.
- Books suitable for age categories ranging from 2 to 16 years.
- Books from the following genres: novel, short story, picture book, non-fiction.
- Books in which the high quality text and illustrations interact effectively.
- Books published in the last five years.

## READING COMMITTEE

Alfonsina Clemente, Children’s Librarian,  
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Library and Archives Canada

## CHILDREN’S LITERATURE SERVICE OF LIBRARY AND ARCHIVES CANADA

The Children’s Literature Service now consists of more than 140,000 items of fiction and non-fiction, published in French, English and in other languages. Of interest to children and teenagers up to 16 years of age, this complete collection of Canadian works traces the history of children’s books in Canada. A world-class reference collection and a significant collection of literary manuscripts and original illustrations enhance its value as a research collection.

Each year, as part of its reference services and its promotion of reading, the Children’s Literature Service produces a bilingual annotated bibliography for the Library and Archives Canada *Read Up On It* kit. In addition, the Children’s Literature Service provides an outstanding showcase for Canadian children’s book publishing, through the presentation of exhibitions on books and manuscripts selected from its collections.

Website:

[www.collectionscanada.ca/childrenliterature/index-e.html](http://www.collectionscanada.ca/childrenliterature/index-e.html)

PIKA: [www.collectionscanada.ca/pika/index-e.html](http://www.collectionscanada.ca/pika/index-e.html)

Email: [clsslj@lac-bac.gc.ca](mailto:clsslj@lac-bac.gc.ca)

# A WISH FOR PEACE

## ENGLISH TITLES

### B FOR BUSTER

**IAIN LAWRENCE**  
 NEW YORK: DELACORTE PRESS,  
 2004. 321 P.  
 ISBN 0385901089 (BOUND)  
 ISBN 0385730861 (PAPERBACK)  
**AGES 13 AND UP**



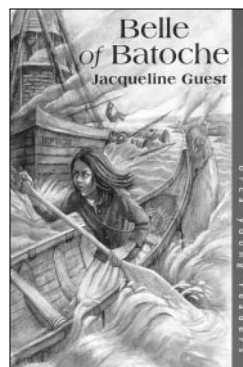
Kak is desperate to get away from his abusive father. He lies about his age, and at 16, he enlists in the Canadian Air Force to fight in the Second World War. He dreams of flying with the Allied bombers. He is trained as a wireless operator and sent to a squadron in England. Kak is assigned to *B for Buster*, an old Halifax bomber. After his first mission, he realizes that the odds of survival are slim. He has nightmares; he is terrified and frightened of death. But he is afraid to confess and does not want to be branded as a coward. His only friends are Bert, the caretaker of the homing pigeons, and Percy, the pigeon that goes on each mission and becomes his good-luck charm.

Iain Lawrence has created a powerful and unforgettable story. *B for Buster* is captivating in its portrayal of the

ordeals that bombers faced during the Second World War and the unimaginable sights that surrounded them. It exposes the nature of war and the emotions that it evokes: courage, horror, shame and fear. Readers will never view this war in the same way again. The book also includes maps, an author's note acknowledging sources of information and a glossary of terms. —AC

### BELLE OF BATOCHÉ

**JACQUELINE GUEST**  
 VICTORIA, B.C.: ORCA BOOK  
 PUBLISHERS, 2004. 134 P.  
 (ORCA YOUNG READERS)  
 ISBN 1551432978  
**AGES 8 TO 11**

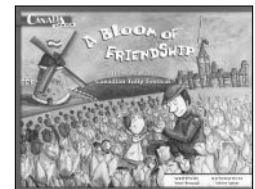


Belle Tourand, a Métis girl from Batoche, is in competition with Sarah Johnson, the new girl in town. Both want to be the bell ringer at the local church. Belle finds that she must learn how to embroider to compete for the job. She is disappointed when Sarah's handiwork is judged better than her own, and suspects her rival has cheated by presenting someone else's needlework.

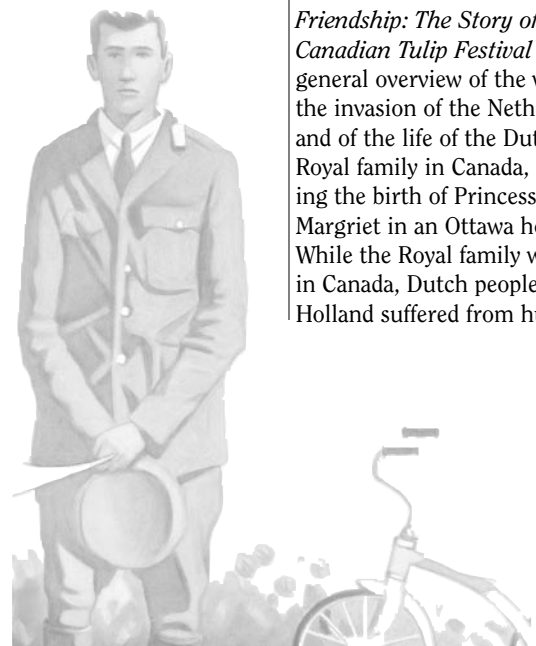
Belle's hunch proves correct, but when she returns to Batoche with her proof, she is caught in the commencement of the Battle of Batoche. She spots the Johnson house on fire, and sees Sarah and her brother Samuel on the roof. Belle and her mother rescue the two children just in time. Samuel has suffered smoke inhalation and is unconscious; Belle's mother has burned her hands. Belle takes them all to an abandoned root cellar, where they stay for four days, waiting for the end of the fighting and nursing each other back to health. Belle and Sarah slowly overcome their differences, and after they emerge from their hiding place, Sarah admits that she cheated in the contest and apologizes to her new friend. —MMc

### A BLOOM OF FRIENDSHIP: THE STORY OF THE CANADIAN TULIP FESTIVAL

**ANNE RENAUD**  
 ILLUSTRATIONS: ASHLEY SPIRES  
 MONTRÉAL: LOBSTER PRESS,  
 2004. 24 P.  
 (MY CANADA)  
 ISBN 189422289X  
**AGES 6 TO 10**



Ottawa, Canada's national capital, has hosted the Tulip Festival since 1953. The festival stems from the gift in 1945 of thousands of tulips bulbs from the Queen of Holland to Canada. This giving of bulbs became a yearly thank you to our country for hosting Dutch Princess Juliana and her two daughters during the Second World War. *A Bloom of Friendship: The Story of the Canadian Tulip Festival* gives a general overview of the war, of the invasion of the Netherlands and of the life of the Dutch Royal family in Canada, including the birth of Princess Margriet in an Ottawa hospital. While the Royal family was safe in Canada, Dutch people in Holland suffered from hunger



and cold at the hands of the Nazis, who took away most of the food. When Canadian troops liberated their country in the spring of 1945, they found a starving population. Many Canadian soldiers helped Dutch citizens to rebuild their houses and their country.

This non-fiction book is illustrated with colourful collages created by Ashley Spires. The textured, handmade paper makes for lively interior scenes and brings out the vivid colours of the Ottawa blooms in spring-time. Maps, photographs and archival documents such as Dutch food coupons, Star of David badges, newspaper clippings and vintage postcards add historical interest to the book. —JP

**A BRAVE SOLDIER**

**NICOLAS DEBON**

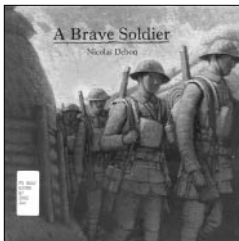
TORONTO: GROUNDWOOD BOOKS, 2002. 32 P.

ISBN 0888994818

**AGES 6 TO 9**

Available in French under the title *Un brave soldat*

(Montréal: Les 400 coups, 2005)



When the First World War breaks out in August 1914, Canadians rush to join the army. Everyone thinks that the war will be over by Christmas. Frank and his friend Michael are sent to fight in Europe. Frank doesn't know anything about the war or the Germans. He enlists because he doesn't want anyone to think he is a coward. He and Michael are trained as soldiers and sent to the trenches. Then come the battles – unimaginable sights surround Frank and horror is

everywhere. Frank is wounded; his friend is killed.

*A Brave Soldier* explains the terrible conditions that soldiers faced and the effects that this war had on them. It wasn't like anything they could have ever imagined. Nicolas Debon's realistic acrylic illustrations complement the text and his use of earth tones helps to evoke the dark times. In this compelling and emotional story, the reader gradually comes face to face with the atrocities and the misery of "the war to end all wars." —AC

**THE CAT FROM KOSOVO**

**MARY-JANE HAMPTON**

**ILLUSTRATIONS: TAMARA HEIKALO**

HALIFAX, N.S.: NIMBUS PUBLISHING, 2001. 40 P.

ISBN 1551093332

**AGES 6 TO 8**

Life was good for Olsa and her husband Bashkin in Pristina, the capital of Kosovo, Yugoslavia. They lived happily in a small apartment with their cat Mishka. Olsa loved flowers and worked in a flower shop; Bashkin was an architect and worked in town. But things changed: Serbs and Albanians started fighting again. Kosovo's history was filled with war and another was starting. Serbs were in power and Albanians had to flee their homes. Olsa and Bashkin had just one hour to pack their suitcase and leave their home in the middle of the night.

Carrying Mishka in a bag, they walked for three weeks in the mountains and forests up to a refugee camp in Macedonia, a nearby province. More than 20,000 people were crammed together in the tent village, without enough food or water. Olsa and Bashkin decided to leave and go to Canada. They had to hide their cat as they went through airport security and Canadian customs. At the Greenwood base in Nova Scotia,

Mishka received an immigration card – he was the first refugee cat on Canadian soil!

A charming tale based on a true story. —JP

**CHARLIE WILCOX'S GREAT WAR**

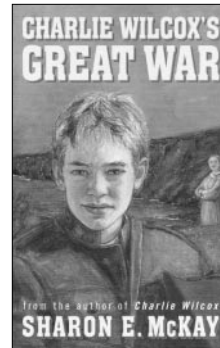
**SHARON E. MCKAY**

TORONTO: PENGUIN CANADA,

2003. 268 P.

ISBN 0143014714

**AGES 12 AND UP**



This book continues the story of Charlie Wilcox, now 17 years old. We first meet the young protagonist in the award-winning book *Charlie Wilcox*, though it is not necessary to have read the first story to enjoy this sequel. Its Prologue and Who's Who help identify the characters, and a helpful glossary is also provided. In it, Charlie recounts his story in a series of flashbacks to his friend Claire.

He explains how he worked as a volunteer medic at the Front in France. While stitching up one of the wounded, he realizes that the patient is the enemy. Dr. Daniels, a fellow Newfoundlander, tells him that he has no business being a medic if he doesn't treat everyone. Charlie realizes that it is

easier to kill if you think of your enemy as a monster. Since Charlie is so young, Dr. Daniels tries to send him back home, but Charlie gets himself into an adventure that would not be out of place in a spy story. The plane he is in is shot down behind enemy lines. He and the pilot steal a German plane, which then gets shot down by their side, and they must jump. Fortunately, German planes carried parachutes (British planes did not); unfortunately, the two landed right in No Man's Land. McKay's descriptions make you feel like you are right there with Charlie. —LS

**ELIZABETH: TO PIRATE ISLAND**

**ANNE LAUREL CARTER**

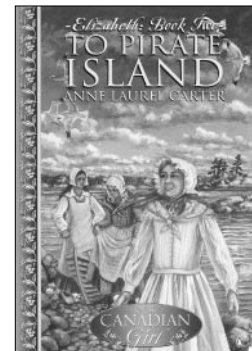
TORONTO: PENGUIN CANADA,

2004. 90 P.

(OUR CANADIAN GIRL)

ISBN 014301482X

**AGES 8 TO 11**



This is the second Elizabeth book in the Our Canadian Girl series. Elizabeth Brightman and her family moved to Nova Scotia from Connecticut as part of the resettlement of the land vacated by the Acadians who were deported in 1755. The story is set several years after the Expulsion, when Acadian families started returning to the Maritimes.

Elizabeth has two best friends: Mathilde LeBlanc, an Acadian girl whose family returned to Nova Scotia and now works on the Brightman farm; and Sarah Worth, daughter of the local preacher. Elizabeth has two wishes. She wants to visit Pirate Island desperately, to search for buried treasure she believes is there. She also hopes her two friends can lay aside their differences and become friends. Elizabeth has a difficult time understanding why people of different backgrounds do not always get along.

After Sarah's aunt and baby die in childbirth, Elizabeth decides to escape the funeral and make another attempt to reach Pirate Island. She gets there on foot over the mud flats at low tide, and discovers treasure on the island. Unfortunately, she gets caught by the tide and cannot get back to the mainland. Eventually her friends and father rescue her, and the second of Elizabeth's wishes comes true when she discovers her friends have reached an understanding. —MMc

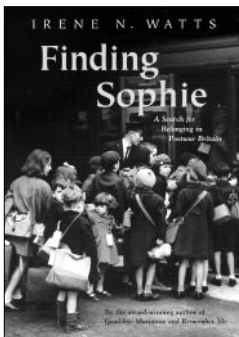
**FINDING SOPHIE**

IRENE N. WATTS

TORONTO: TUNDRA BOOKS, 2002. 136 P.

ISBN 0887766137

AGES 10 TO 13



At the beginning of the Second World War, Sophie Mandel, a seven-year-old Jewish German child has been sent by her parents to London to escape the Nazis. For the next seven years she is cared for by a friend of

her parents – her endlessly empathetic Aunt Em. Despite the hardships of wartime, Sophie carves out a fulfilling life for herself in England. With the passage of time, the notion that she is “on loan” to her Aunt Em fades. The arrival of V-E day, while marking the end of the war, creates a conflict in Sophie's life. She must face the possibility of being reunited with parents she hardly knows, and the return to a Germany she does not remember and a language she no longer speaks.

As in the companion books *Good-bye Marianne* and *Remember Me*, author Irene N. Watts draws on her personal experience of the *Kindertransport*, the train taking Jewish children out of Germany in 1938 to safety in Britain. These books have garnered her numerous awards including the Geoffrey Bilson Award for Historical Fiction for Young People and the Isaac Frischwasser Memorial Award for Young Adult Fiction. —MR



**THE FLAGS OF WAR**

JOHN WILSON

TORONTO: KIDS CAN PRESS,

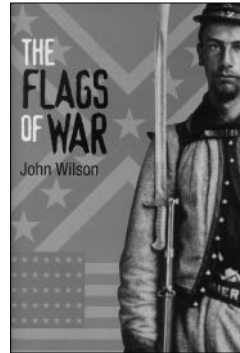
2004. 166 P.

(KCP FICTION)

ISBN 155337567X (BOUND)

ISBN 1553375688 (PAPERBACK)

AGES 12 AND UP



It is 1860, and the people of South Carolina declare that their union with the United States of America is dissolved: they are entering a war with the Northern Unionists. Nate McGregor, son of a southern plantation owner of Scottish descent, joins in the fight on the Confederate side. While the American Civil War rages between the North and the South, Walt McGregor, a young Canadian farmer whose ancestors also came from Scotland, wonders if the colonies of Upper and Lower Canada will

be dragged into their neighbours' war.

The two young men are long-lost cousins; their destinies meet when an escaped slave from the South Carolina McGregor plantation follows the underground railroad up to Cornwall, near the Canadian McGregor farm. Walt helps the slave but is captured himself by an unscrupulous American bounty hunter, and sold to the Confederate army. Not only will Walt have to fight in a foreign war as a Confederate, but for a cause he despises: slavery.

The story of cousins Nate and Walt illustrates how many families were torn apart in the American Civil War and highlights the little-known fact that some Canadians were also involved in that war. —JP

**A FOREIGN FIELD**

GILLIAN CHAN

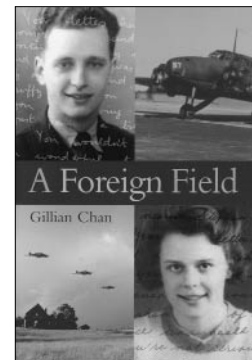
TORONTO: KIDS CAN PRESS,

2002. 184 P.

ISBN 1553373499 (BOUND)

ISBN 1553373502 (PAPERBACK)

AGES 12 AND UP



The title of this book comes from Rupert Brooke's 1914 poem "The Soldier":

"If I should die, think only this of me: / That there's some corner of a foreign field / That is forever England."

Set during the Second World War, this story is told mainly from the point of view of 14-year-old Ellen Logan. With two older brothers in the service and her mother involved in the war effort, Ellen is forced to

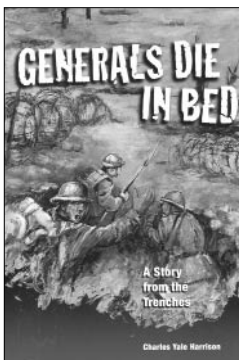
look after her younger brother, Colin, and run the house. Her father praises the sacrifices being made by the young soldiers, who are putting their dreams on hold, while turning a blind eye to the sacrifice of Ellen's own dreams.

Ellen meets Stephen Dearborn, a young pilot at the Service Flight Training School in Hagersville, Ontario. Stephen comes from England and lied about his age to enter the Air Force, desperate to do his bit for his country. His point of view is shared in his letters home and in his nightmares.

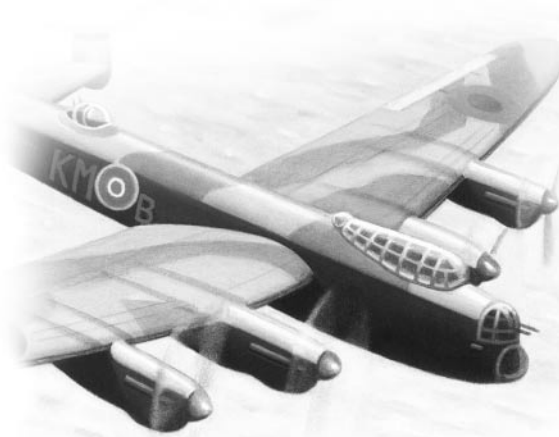
Growing up during the war years, these children had no childhood. Most were expected to shoulder adult responsibilities from an early age.

This bittersweet story deals with death as well as love, dreams and shattered reality. —LS

**GENERALS DIE IN BED:  
A STORY FROM THE TRENCHES**  
CHARLES YALE HARRISON  
TORONTO: ANNICK PRESS, 2002. 175 P.  
ISBN 1550377310 (BOUND)  
ISBN 1550377302 (PAPERBACK)  
AGES 13 AND UP



Unlike many books that glorify war, *Generals Die in Bed: A Story from the Trenches* is a straightforward account of the atrocity and inhumanity of war. The story is told from the perspective of a 20-year-old Harrison, who enlisted as a private with the Canadian Expeditionary Force in the early days of the First World War and was promptly whisked to the



battlefield of the Western Front. We get a sense of the misery of trench warfare through his writing about hunger, sleep deprivation, terror, ear-splitting noise, rats, lice, corpses, snipers, mud, filth and disease. We feel for the soldiers on both sides: unlike the generals who die in bed, these men “die in a lousy ditch.”

The intensity of the battle scenes is relieved in chapters where the narrator is “on rest.” Actually, these periods are usually anything but restful, and entail all manner of fatigue duties, or being jostled across the countryside in the back of a lorry on the way to the next battle site. In these passages, the style changes from the stark prose of the trench and battlefield descriptions to insightful reflections and observations, in which the young man tries to cope with the shocks the war has caused.

Originally published in 1930, *Generals Die in Bed* was acclaimed at the time as one of “the best of the war books” by the *New York Evening Standard*. —MR

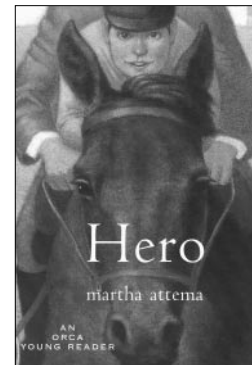
**HANA'S SUITCASE:  
A TRUE STORY**  
KAREN LEVINE  
TORONTO: SECOND STORY PRESS,  
2002. 111 P.  
(A HOLOCAUST REMEMBRANCE BOOK  
FOR YOUNG READERS)  
ISBN 189676455X  
ISBN 1896764614 (BOOK AND CD)  
AGES 9 TO 12  
Available in French under the title:  
*La valise d'Hana*  
(Montréal: Hurtubise HMH, 2003)



This is the true story of a search for the owner of a suitcase – a suitcase that arrived at the Tokyo Holocaust Center in Japan in 2000. The only clues were the words painted on the outside of the suitcase: the name of a girl, Hana Brady; a date, May 31, 1931; and the word *Waisenkind* – the German name for orphan. Armed only with the knowledge that the suitcase had come from Auschwitz, a Second World War concentration camp, the centre's director, Fumiko Ishioka, sets out to discover who Hana Brady was and what happened to her.

This poignant story simultaneously traces Fumiko's journey to Europe and Canada, and the life of Hana Brady, who was killed in Auschwitz at age 13. Told with honesty and sensitivity, the book gives readers an understanding of the horrors of the Holocaust, tempered with a lesson of hope. Black-and-white photographs, documents and sketches give an intimate view of this remarkable story. —DS

**HERO**  
MARTHA ATTEMA  
VICTORIA, B.C.: ORCA BOOK  
PUBLISHERS, 2003. 131 P.  
ISBN 155143251X  
AGES 8 TO 10



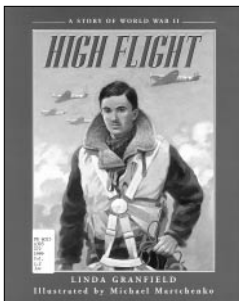
Eight-year-old Izaak and his mother have lived in hiding at Mrs. Waterman's house in Amsterdam for over a year. After yet another close call with the German soldiers, Mrs. Waterman deems it too risky for everyone if Izaak and she stay there, even though the war is almost over. Much to Izaak's dread, he is sent by his mother to a family-run farm in Friesland, a province in the northern part of the Netherlands, where he will be safer. Izaak, using the name Jan, arrives at the farm where he meets new friends and has the chance to start school again. Most importantly, Jan meets Hero, a beautiful, strong, gentle Frisian stallion. Jan identifies with Hero immediately because both he and the horse are wanted by the Germans. Aside from missing

his family, life is good for Jan at the farm until the German soldiers come looking around. Will Jan and Hero be safe? Will Jan ever see his mother again? Who is really the hero? Young readers will feel compelled to find the answers to these questions and will discover some important truths as they read through to the end of the story. —SC

**HIGH FLIGHT:  
A STORY OF WORLD WAR II**

LINDA GRANFIELD  
ILLUSTRATIONS: MICHAEL  
MARTCHENKO

TORONTO: TUNDRA BOOKS, 1999. 30 P.  
ISBN 088776469X  
AGES 7 TO 9



“Oh! I have slipped the surly bonds of Earth / And danced the skies on laughter-silvered wings . . .”

So begins one of the best-loved poems about aerial flight. The poem “High Flight” was penned by 19-year-old John Gillespie Magee, Jr.

Linda Granfield’s book, *High Flight: A Story of World War II*, brings us his life story.

John Magee was born in Shanghai. He spent much of his adolescent years in England, where he began to write poetry. Later, Magee moved to the United States.

The itinerant Magee wanted to take part in the Second World War, so he left Yale in 1940 to enlist in the Royal Canadian

Air Force. By mid-September 1941, Magee got his first posting. One day, at 30,000 feet, he started to muse on the wording to this classic poem. By the time he had landed, he had completed “High Flight.” Magee experienced his first air battle by mid-November. A month later, tragically, the young pilot was dead – not from enemy fire, but from a flying accident.

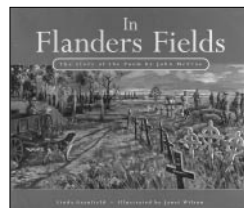
*High Flight: A Story of World War II* vividly captures the life of John Gillespie Magee, Jr. The colourful and detailed illustrations by Michael Martchenko support the text admirably through this most interesting read. —MS

**IN FLANDERS FIELDS:  
THE STORY OF THE POEM BY**

JOHN McCRAE  
LINDA GRANFIELD

ILLUSTRATIONS: JANET WILSON  
MARKHAM, ONT.: FITZHENRY &  
WHITESIDE, 2005. 36 P.  
ISBN 155005144X  
AGES 8 AND UP

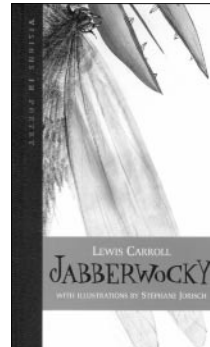
Special 10th Anniversary Edition



One of the best-loved poems of the First World War, “In Flanders Fields” was written by Dr. John McCrae, a Canadian medical officer who treated the wounded and buried the dead along the front lines. In the midst of mind-numbing horror and devastation, he wrote the simple guileless words, which even today inspire images not only of loss and destruction, but also of hope and renewal. In celebrating the poem (not war) and the man who wrote it, the author and illustrator have created a thoughtful, informative and exquisite work of art which introduces children to the subject of war with restraint and sensitivity.

**JABBERWOCKY  
LEWIS CARROLL**

ILLUSTRATIONS: STÉPHANE JORISCH  
TORONTO: KIDS CAN PRESS, 2004. 32 P.  
(VISIONS IN POETRY)  
ISBN 1553370791  
AGES 9 AND UP



“’Twas brillig, and the slithy toves / Did gyre and gimble in the wabe . . .”

No need to remove your glasses or to clean your contact lenses! These lines are written in English, or at least in Lewis Carroll’s imaginative English.

Carroll threw caution to the wind in the mid-19th century when he created a new literary language. The text is filled with portmanteau words: words with “two meanings packed into one.” For instance, “chortle” is an amalgam of “chuckle” and “snort.” Take Carroll’s portmanteaus, his otherworldly imagination and his deftness with language and you get “Jabberwocky.”

Carroll’s classic poem is brought to life through the vivid illustrations of Stéphane Jorisch. His skinny, whimsical depictions carry the reader from line to line as the poem lyrically courses its way through a village and its people, and on to the battle between a young man and a fey, ethereal beast – the Jabberwock.

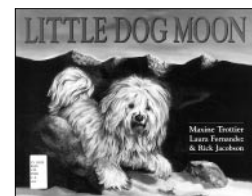
Jorisch’s innovative imagery explores the effects of war on each generation, and the influence of media and propaganda on the collective psyche. He has created a sobering and provocative post-modern look at the fabled poem.

“And, as in uffish thought he stood, / *The Jabberwock*, / With eyes of flame, / Came whiffing through / *The tulgey wood*, / And burred as it came! . . .” —MS

**LITTLE DOG MOON**

MAXINE TROTTER

PAINTINGS: LAURA FERNANDEZ  
& RICK JACOBSON  
TORONTO: STODDART KIDS, 2000. 23 P.  
ISBN 0773732209  
AGES 5 TO 8

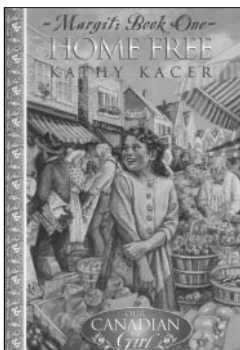


Life is peaceful in a monastery set high in the Himalayas of Tibet. Tenzin is a young monk who takes care of Moon, the monastery dog. Moon wanders on the mountain paths during the day and sleeps at Tenzin’s feet at night. One winter evening, a young boy and girl seek refuge at the monastery. They are looking for a way through the mountains to lead them to freedom in Nepal. Their mother sent them out on their own in the wintertime so they could avoid soldiers and have a chance of escaping the brutal Chinese regime. She gave them a prayer flag to lift to the sky if they reach their destination. Tenzin and the monks decide that Moon should be the children’s guide to Nepal. Next morning, they set off through the mountains. Weeks and months later, little Moon comes back to the monastery with the prayer flag around his neck . . .

The warm hues of the monks' robes and contrasting tones of the landscapes set the mood in the paintings that bring this compelling story to life. The artwork captures the peaceful atmosphere of the monastery and its isolation amid the grandeur of the Himalayan peaks. The depictions of Moon, with his bright eyes and thick coat of fur, are full of charm. A beautiful book in which young readers can learn about two Tibetan children, and their quest for freedom and peace. —JP

**MARGIT: HOME FREE**

**KATHY KACER**  
**ILLUSTRATIONS: JANET WILSON AND SHARON MATTHEWS**  
 TORONTO: PENGUIN CANADA, 2003. 87 P.  
 (OUR CANADIAN GIRL)  
 ISBN 0143312006  
**AGES 8 TO 11**



The Our Canadian Girl series is a collection of children's novels about young girls who are strong and bright. *Home Free*, part of this series, is a novel that captures just such a girl: 11-year-old Margit Freed.

It is 1944 and the Nazis occupy much of Europe including Margit's Czechoslovakia. Her father has been captured; his fate is unknown. Margit's mother knows she and Margit must leave or also risk capture. They flee to Canada. *Home Free* focuses on loss, identity and hope.

Margit mourns the loss of her dad and worries about what happened to him. Is he still

living? Will she and her mom ever see him again?

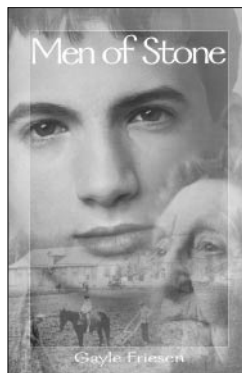
Margit struggles with her own identity in her new adopted city, Toronto. She is Jewish and Jews are not welcome in many parts of the world. Will she be liked? Accepted? Will she look and act like young Canadian girls?

Margit holds onto hope: she has made a wonderful friend; she is learning English; and she is making a niche for herself in school. Things are better, but is there hope for her dad?

Compelling to read, the book's incisive prose is supported by the quality illustrations of Janet Wilson and Sharon Matthews. —MS

**MEN OF STONE**

**GAYLE FRIESEN**  
 TORONTO: KIDS CAN PRESS, 2000. 216 P.  
 ISBN 1550747819 (BOUND)  
 ISBN 1550747827 (PAPERBACK)  
**AGES 14 AND UP**

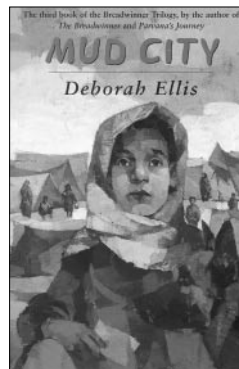


Fifteen-year-old Ben does not fit in. He is taunted with the epithet "Ballerina Boy" because of the ballet lessons he used to take. Tired of the ridicule, he stops taking lessons, but the teasing continues. After he tries and fails to make the co-ed volleyball team, the taunting escalates into bullying and he ends up in the hospital after a beating. He feels that he cannot discuss the situation with his mother; she seems to have stopped living and merely exists since the death of his

father 10 years ago. But Ben discovers that he can talk to his great-aunt Frieda, who has come to spend a few weeks with his dysfunctional family. Great-Aunt Frieda describes her life in Stalin's Russia and tells of her confrontation with the "men of stone" who imprisoned her husband. As a result of his aunt's interest in his life, her patient guidance and quiet example, Ben comes to a series of realizations about remaining true to your dreams and not losing yourself to anger and revenge. —LS

**MUD CITY**

**DEBORAH ELLIS**  
 TORONTO: GROUNDWOOD BOOKS, 2003. 164 P.  
 ISBN 0888995180 (BOUND)  
 ISBN 0888995423 (PAPERBACK)  
**AGES 12 AND UP**



In this, the third book of the *Breadwinner Trilogy*, Shauzia and her dog Jasper dream of living by the sea in France and resting in a field of lavender. It is only a dream because 14-year-old Shauzia is stuck in an Afghan Widows' Compound in Pakistan. After yet another frustrating conversation with Mrs. Weera, the camp's organizer, Shauzia decides that she can live a better life on her own. In the dark of night, Shauzia and Jasper sneak away from the compound, only to be assaulted by the sights, sounds and smells of Peshawar, the nearest big city. While in Peshawar, Shauzia decides that

her only hope of finding work and the money she needs desperately to realize her dream is to dress and act like a boy. After searching for work, begging on the corner, spending a terrifying night in prison and passing a confusing few days with an American family, she finds herself right back where she started: the Widows' Compound. Will Shauzia and Jasper ever get to France? Or will Shauzia realize that surviving and helping others is more important? This novel tells of a young teenager's strength of spirit in the face of adversity, and depicts life in a refugee camp in a very truthful and upfront manner. —SC

**NO ONE MUST KNOW**

**EVA WISEMAN**  
 TORONTO: TUNDRA BOOKS, 2004. 194 P.  
 ISBN 0887766803  
**AGES 10 TO 13**

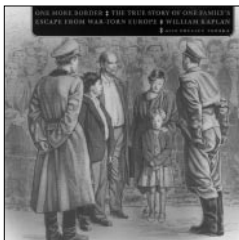


Alexandra is well liked by her classmates. She has many friends, is a good student and a girl guide, and attends Catholic Sunday school. Little does she know that she is living in a perfect world created especially for her by her parents. When Jacob moves to town, her world slowly begins to unravel. Why do other students treat him differently? How do her parents know about Shabbos dinner and mezuzahs, when all she knows about are crosses and confirmations? Why do they forbid her to see him? Why does her mother hide photographs of her family in a drawer? Why does she get migraines when

asked about the war? What secret can her parents be hiding from her?

Slowly, as her questions are answered, Alex realizes that the real costs involved in denying who you are far outweigh any perceived gains. This gentle novel about the quest for self-discovery and identity, and the choices that such a journey involves, also brings to light the value of true friendship and respect for others. —AC

**ONE MORE BORDER:  
THE TRUE STORY OF  
ONE FAMILY'S ESCAPE FROM  
WAR-TORN EUROPE**  
WILLIAM KAPLAN WITH  
SHELLEY TANAKA  
ILLUSTRATIONS: STEPHEN TAYLOR  
TORONTO: GROUNDWOOD BOOKS,  
2004. 64 P.  
ISBN 0888996381  
AGES 8 TO 12

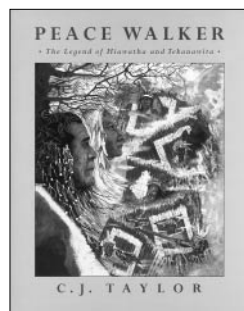


During the Second World War, Nazi troops were taking over Europe and invading countries; hundreds of thousands of Jews tried to escape the brutal repression. Most of them did not escape and died instead in concentration camps in various European countries. This is the remarkable story of the Kaplan family's escape from Lithuania: across Russia and Siberia by train; crossing over to Japan; and finally, aboard a ship to Vancouver and on to a farm outside Cornwall.

Despite imminent danger and approaching war, young Igor, his sister Nomi and their parents Bernard and Nadja obtained a visa that allowed them to leave Lithuania and travel to safety. All along the way, they saw other families who were not as lucky.

This riveting book is accompanied by archival and family photographs, historical sidebars, a glossary, maps and archival documents such as the visa issued by the Japanese Consul in Lithuania. Stephen Taylor's soft-coloured pastel illustrations add a warm and intimate feeling. —JP

**PEACE WALKER: THE LEGEND  
OF HIAWATHA AND TEKANAWITA**  
C.J. TAYLOR  
ILLUSTRATIONS: C.J. TAYLOR  
TORONTO: TUNDRA BOOKS, 2004. 45 P.  
ISBN 0887765475  
AGES 10 AND UP



Written and painted by C.J. Taylor, a self-taught artist of Mohawk heritage, *Peace Walker: The Legend of Hiawatha and Tekanawita* brings to light the great history of the Iroquois Confederacy. During the hard and cruel times when the Onondaga leader Atotarho was chief of the Five Nations, there was much suffering among the Onondaga, Cayuga, Oneida, Seneca and the Mohawk peoples, for Atotarho was an evil sorcerer. All feared him except Onondaga Chief Hiawatha, who wanted peace for his people. Atotarho sought revenge on the defiant and courageous Hiawatha; he had his family killed and his village destroyed.

Full of sadness, Hiawatha left on a long journey north, during which he met Tekanawita, a Huron wise man looking for

peace. Together they defeated Atotarho and brought peace to their people and to the Five Nations.

Nine beautiful acrylic paintings depict the peace seekers, Chief Hiawatha and Tekanawita, as well as the cruel and bloodthirsty Chief Atotarho, at times represented as a snake or as a man among slithering creatures. The paintings provide a strong visual representation of the Iroquois Confederacy, the people of the Longhouse and the natural beauty of the land. —JP

**RED LAND, YELLOW RIVER:  
A STORY FROM THE CULTURAL  
REVOLUTION**  
ANGE ZHANG  
ILLUSTRATIONS: ANGE ZHANG  
TORONTO: GROUNDWOOD BOOKS,  
2004. 55 P.  
ISBN 0888994893  
AGES 8 TO 12



Winner of the 2005 Bologna Ragazzi Award for Non-Fiction, this coming-of-age story by Ange Zhang recounts the author's experiences as a teenager. His world at the time was rocked by politics and Chairman Mao introduced the Cultural Revolution to China. In an attempt to fit in, Ange joined the Red Guards: youths who banded together to enforce Mao's vision. Ange's father was arrested by the Red Guards; his only crime was being a well-known writer. At first, Ange was humiliated, but as time went on, he began to read his father's books secretly. After the Red Guards were disbanded, Ange was sent

to a labour camp and told he would have to live out his life as a peasant farmer. But he dared to dream and was eager to learn. When a friend gave him a box of paints as a gift, he knew with certainty that he wanted to become an artist. Ange's bold and beautiful illustrations, created in digital paint, are complemented with photographs of himself and family members. At the end of the book is a brief, factual history of China's Cultural Revolution. —LS

**REMEMBER ME**  
IRENE N. WATTS  
TORONTO: TUNDRA BOOKS, 2000. 174 P.  
ISBN 088776519X  
AGES 12 AND UP



This book is a sequel to the award-winning novel *Good-bye Marianne*. Tensions and danger escalate for Jews in Germany in 1938; Marianne's father just manages to escape the Gestapo, the Nazi secret police. Her mother sends the 11-year-old girl away to England as part of the *Kindertransport*, a rescue operation for Jewish children.

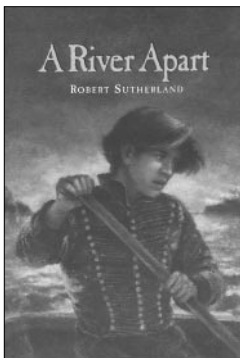
Each refugee child is matched with a British family; Marianne stays with the Jones family. She no longer fears for her life, but she misses her parents and has to adapt to a new language, a new school and to different customs. She hopes her mother will be able to join her in England but still worries about her father who is hiding in Czechoslovakia.

When the Second World War breaks out, London school children are evacuated to the countryside. Marianne is sent to Wales to live with a family who has recently lost a daughter. She feels that her identity is being threatened and she worries that her mother will never be able to trace her.

A few letters and postcards are the only links with her family.

*Remember Me* offers the reader one child's perspective on being separated from family in wartime. It explores how war affects the members of a family and demonstrates, through moving narrative, the resilience of children who live this experience. —JP

**A RIVER APART**  
**ROBERT SUTHERLAND**  
 MARKHAM, ONT.: FITZHENRY &  
 WHITESIDE, 2000. 184 P.  
 ISBN 1550416529 (BOUND)  
 ISBN 1550416464 (PAPERBACK)  
**AGES 11 TO 13**



This adventure story occurs during the War of 1812. Sutherland explores the moral and ethical dilemmas that ensue when friends, neighbours and



relatives are suddenly declared enemies because of war. The St. Lawrence River is very narrow between Prescott and Ogdensburg, which allows the citizens of both countries to visit and trade back and forth; this situation provides the backdrop for the story.

James Shaw is a 15-year-old Canadian who often paddles his canoe across the river to visit his American friend, Jared Jackson, 14, and his older sister, Leah. Jared's father encourages Jared to do his patriotic duty and join the American army as a drummer. James feels he has to protect his family and the farm they have worked so hard to build, and so he joins the Canadian militia. Both friends know that they may have to face each other on the battlefield. Leah is caught in the middle, torn between her love for her brother and her boyfriend.

The book contains a glossary of military terms used in that era, as well as recommended reading for more historical information on the War of 1812.

This book was nominated for the Geoffrey Bilson Award for Historical Fiction for Young People and the Canadian Library Association's Book of the Year for Children Award. —LS

**SILVER THREADS**  
**MARSHA FORCHUK SKRYPUCH**  
**ILLUSTRATIONS: MICHAEL**  
**MARTCHENKO**  
 MARKHAM, ONT.: FITZHENRY &  
 WHITESIDE, 2004. 30 P.  
 (ORIGINALLY PUBLISHED: TORONTO:  
 VIKING, 1996)  
 ISBN 1550419013 (BOUND)  
 ISBN 155041903X (PAPERBACK)  
**AGES 6 TO 12**

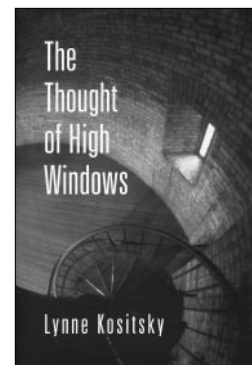


This new edition of *Silver Threads*, first printed in 1996 and winner of the 1995 Taras Shevchenko Writing Award, allows readers a renewed access to a beautiful story. Anna and Ivan escape their oppressive lives as poor farmers in Ukraine and immigrate to Canada just before the First World War. The couple work very hard clearing their land and building their home in the Prairies. When war is declared, Ivan volunteers for the army, but he is imprisoned in an internment camp for "enemy aliens." Anna survives on her own, though she is threatened by a government official who tells her she will lose her land if it is not cleared in time. As if

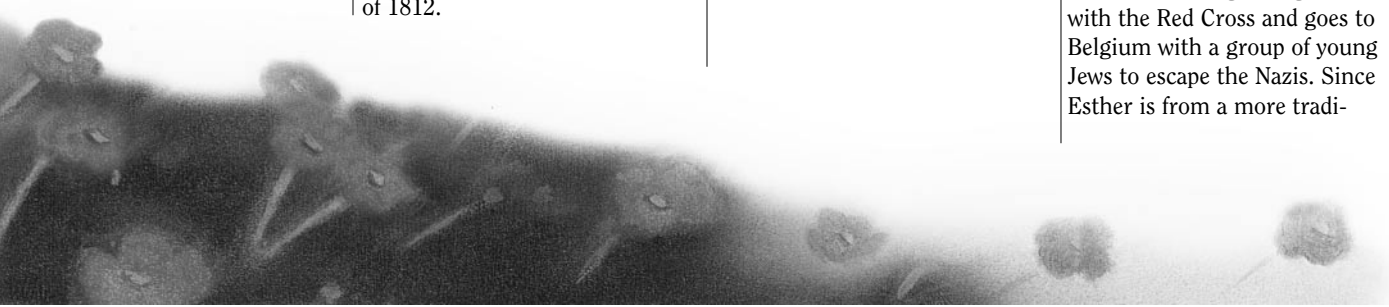
by a miracle, Ivan returns home on Christmas Eve. He is guided by the shining Christmas tree, whose branches glisten with the silver threads of a spider's web.

The detailing and vividness of the illustrations by Michael Martchenko bring the settings of story to life, from the lush fields of Ukraine to the dark stumps of the new homestead in the Prairies. Anna and Ivan, the two main characters, have expressive faces and their traditional clothing is emblematic of their Ukrainian origins. Anna's red babushka is often the focal point of the artwork, whether covering her blond tresses or used as a colourful tablecloth for the Christmas Eve dinner. The evocative use of words and illustrations make this story shine. —JP

**THE THOUGHT OF HIGH**  
**WINDOWS**  
**LYNNE KOSITSKY**  
 TORONTO: KIDS CAN PRESS,  
 2004. 175 P.  
 ISBN 1553376218 (BOUND)  
 ISBN 1553376226 (PAPERBACK)  
**AGES 12 AND UP**



Jews are being persecuted in Germany; Esther, a 16-year-old Jewish German girl, registers with the Red Cross and goes to Belgium with a group of young Jews to escape the Nazis. Since Esther is from a more tradi-



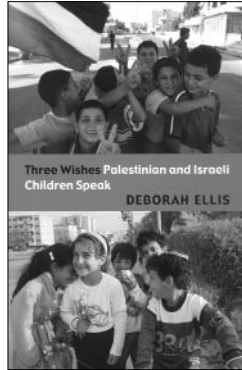
tional family, the other youths pick on her. She perceives herself as ugly and unattractive. Her relationship with her only friend, Walter, is complicated, and although she is in love with him, he treats her like a sister and befriends the more popular girls.

When Belgium is attacked, the group goes to France; when France surrenders, Esther is arrested. She escapes by jumping from a window – windows often seem to be her only hope of escaping difficult situations. Now alone and on her own, she gets involved with the Jewish Underground.

*The Thought of High Windows* is based on the true story of children who escaped Austria and Germany and lived for a time in a French castle. Lynne Kositsky has written a powerful and unforgettable story about the reality of living the horrors of the Holocaust. It is a story of hope and survival. Readers will empathize with Esther, who survived one of the darkest times in history. They will be touched by the story and continue to think about its powerful message long after they close the book. –AC

**THREE WISHES: PALESTINIAN AND ISRAELI CHILDREN SPEAK**  
DEBORAH ELLIS

TORONTO: GROUNDWOOD BOOKS, 2004. 110 P.  
ISBN 0888995547 (BOUND)  
ISBN 0888996454 (PAPERBACK)  
AGES 11 AND UP



Deborah Ellis, writer of the international best-selling trilogy *The Breadwinner*, *Parvana's Journey* and *Mud City* met with 20 young Israelis and Palestinians, aged 8 to 18 years. Their experiences are recounted from their own perspective through personal testimonies.

Each youth is named and his or her photograph appears in the book – thus, faces are given to the people who experienced the Palestinian-Israeli conflict.

Several Israeli youngsters talk about the threat of Palestinian attacks in their daily lives; they explain how they perceive their neighbours across the high security wall. Most have never played with a Palestinian youth. On the other hand, most do know someone who was killed by a Palestinian suicide attack.

Several young Palestinians share their grief about the daily hardships of occupation: crammed refugee camps, lack of jobs for their parents, curfews and forbidden zones. Twelve-year-old Wafa tells how her mother stopped talking when their house was destroyed for the third time by Israeli soldiers. Orphans, children who suffer deep trauma and angry young people share a life with no hope of education, a proper job or human dignity.

This is a riveting book that gives true accounts of what war leaves behind for the children. A must read! –JP

**THE UNDERGROUND REPORTERS**  
KATHY KACER

TORONTO: SECOND STORY PRESS, 2004. 155 P.  
ISBN 1896764851  
AGES 12 AND UP



This biographical story takes place within the Jewish community of Budejovice, a town in the former Czechoslovakia, during the Nazi occupation. Children were not allowed to play in parks or visit the cinema; adults were forbidden to work; food was scarce. Ruda Stadler, a teenager and visionary at the time, thought of starting a newspaper and encouraged the other children to write stories, poems and jokes. While the newspaper began as a source of entertainment, it became a lifeline for the whole Jewish community, and inspired hope where there was little to be found.

The story chronicles the lives of the various children who contributed to the newspaper, through the memories of two who survived the death camps, John Freund and Irena Stadler. Though misery permeated their lives, they also had some happy moments: John was able to celebrate his Bar Mitzvah with his family while in the concentration camp, Theresienstadt, before they were sent to Auschwitz; Irena got married in the camp and remained there with her husband until they were freed after the war. Sadly, Ruda Stadler was shot to death in Auschwitz for refusing to give up his warm coat. He fought for his rights till the end.



Remarkably, the newspaper entitled *Klepy* (which means “Gossip”) survived the war and is now on display at the Jewish Museum in Prague. —LS

**THE WAR WITHIN**  
**CAROL MATAS**

TORONTO: SCHOLASTIC CANADA,  
2001. 151 P.  
ISBN 0439988101  
AGES 12 AND UP



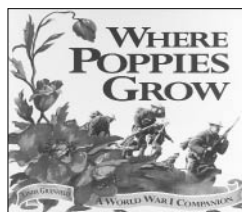
Hannah and her family live in Mississippi. It is 1862 and the North is fighting the South in a civil war. She and her family are accustomed to their quality of life and to the property they own. They do not understand why they cannot be left alone to run their country the way they choose. People from the North are not minding their own business. When General Grant issues an order to free the slaves, the fate of Hannah's family is changed forever. But how will they manage to do everything without their servants? As war ravages the town, their community is menaced and the family house goes up in flames – they are at the mercy of the oppressors. The South is right; the North is wrong. But how can one know who is right for sure?

When an order is issued for Jews to be sent out of the area, Hannah learns first-hand what it is like to be accused collectively for crimes that a few

individuals have committed. When something goes wrong, people look for someone to blame. Could one entire people be all bad? As she and her family are forced to flee, their lives are changed forever. In this coming-of-age story, the author has skillfully interwoven fact and fiction, and combined historical detail with social consciousness and morality. —AC

**WHERE POPPIES GROW:**  
**A WORLD WAR I COMPANION**

LINDA GRANFIELD  
MARKHAM, ONT.: FITZHENRY &  
WHITESIDE, 2005. 48 P.  
ISBN 1550051466  
AGES 9 TO 12



Linda Granfield's latest book is a tribute to the triumphs and tragedies that enveloped society during and after the Great War. The author is not

attempting to tell a history of the war, but rather provides snapshots of the variety of ways that it affected the populace, becoming part of day-to-day life as the conflict dragged on much longer than anyone had originally anticipated. Many had a relative or neighbour who was overseas, and almost everyone on the home front was involved in supporting the war effort, from rolling bandages to knitting socks.

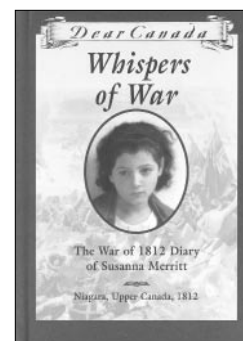
Each two-page folio of the book is liberally illustrated with period photographs, postcards and other images (most of which are from the author's own collection), and each introduces a specific aspect of the conflict. These include the work of the nursing sisters, the propaganda machine, stories of boys who made it home, and those who did not.

Readers will discover a wealth of information pertinent for all age groups: the Canadian connection to Winnie-the-Pooh, ships painted in swirling patterns to confuse the enemy (“dazzle” ships), John McCrae's

famous poem, and the origins of the poppy as a symbol of remembrance. —MM

**WHISPERS OF WAR:**  
**THE WAR OF 1812 DIARY OF**  
**SUSANNA MERRITT**

KIT PEARSON  
MARKHAM, ONT.: SCHOLASTIC  
CANADA, 2002. 220 P.  
(DEAR CANADA)  
ISBN 0439988365  
AGES 9 TO 12



Day by day, the woes of a family involved in the War of 1812 are described by 11-year-old Susanna Merritt. She writes of these events in her diary and addresses her letters to Constance, her imagined future great-granddaughter. With her father and older brother fighting in the war, Susanna lives in a state of perpetual worry. Although deeply affected by their absence, Susanna is kept busy learning new tasks: how to clear the wheat fields or how to catch fish for supper. The affliction of a bad toothache brings her in to Niagara to see the army surgeon. There, she befriends a young boy, Ellis, who is in the care of General Isaac Brock. Through Susanna's details of later encounters with Ellis and the General, the author allows the reader to get to know this legendary Canadian figure. Kit Pearson's engaging story breathes life into one of the most defining moments in Canadian history. —MM





# A WISH FOR PEACE

## ENGLISH TITLES IN ALTERNATE FORMATS

**BROTHERS FAR FROM HOME:  
THE WORLD WAR I DIARY  
OF ELIZA BATES**

JEAN LITTLE  
AGES 8 TO 12

Eliza is a young girl from a large family, who lives in Uxbridge, Ontario, in 1916. The First World War is raging and two of her brothers are fighting in Europe. Her diary helps her to cope with the many changes, some terrible, which take place over the next few years.

FORMATS:

DAISY talking book on CD, online digital audio through the CNIB Digital Library website.

**THE BULLY BOYS  
ERIC WALTERS  
AGES 12 AND UP**

While the War of 1812 rages, Tom Roberts, 14, is left behind to look after the family farm. This all changes when he stops some American soldiers from robbing the local store. His quick thinking and bravery catch the eye of Lieutenant James FitzGibbon and lead to Tom joining the Bully Boys, FitzGibbon's unit. There, Tom learns more about the fascination and the horror of war than he ever wanted to know.

FORMATS:

DAISY talking book on CD, online digital audio through the CNIB Digital Library website, recorded cassettes.

**FLAMES OF THE TIGER**

JOHN WILSON  
AGES 8 TO 12

Growing up in Germany during Hitler's rise to power, Dieter is caught up in the glorified image of war. But as the world becomes more hostile toward Germany, Dieter is called to fight for his country in a conflict that he does not really understand. With most of his family dead, he must run from everything he knows, and dares only to hope for survival.

FORMATS:

DAISY talking book on CD, online digital audio through the CNIB Digital Library website, Braille (contracted).

**A FOREIGN FIELD**

GILLIAN CHAN  
AGES 12 AND UP

The Second World War is in full force. With one brother missing in action, another about to go overseas, and parents wrapped up in supporting the Canadian war effort, 14-year-old Ellen Logan is forced to shoulder many family responsibilities. Her airplane-fanatic younger brother, Colin, brings Ellen together with Stephen Dearborn – an underage British teen whose romantic dreams of being a flyer are shattered by the harsh reality

of his training. Forced to grow up before their time, the group of friends depend on each other.

FORMATS:

Braille (contracted).

**IN FLANDERS FIELDS:  
THE STORY OF THE POEM  
BY JOHN McCRAE  
LINDA GRANFIELD  
AGES 8 AND UP**

"In Flanders Fields" is one of the most famous war poems ever written. This book contains the poem, as well as the

To obtain a copy of these works in alternate format, please contact the Canadian National Institute for the Blind (CNIB)

Canadian National Institute for the Blind Library  
1929 Bayview Avenue  
Toronto, Ontario M4G 3E8  
(416) 486-2500  
1 800 268-8818  
Fax: (416) 480-7700  
webmaster@cnib.ca  
www.cnib.ca

story of the Canadian doctor who penned it, John McCrae, and how he came to write it.

FORMATS:

DAISY talking book on CD, recorded cassette, printbraille (contracted), online digital audio through the CNIB Digital Library website.

**IRISH CHAIN**

**BARBARA HAWORTH-ATTARD  
AGES 12 AND UP**

For 13-year-old Rose Dunlea, the war against Germany seems far away; her enemies are the words on the page that seem to jumble for no reason when she tries to read them. Ashamed of being held back two years already at school, Rose prays to God that she will no longer have to go to classes. Then, on December 6, 1917, two ships explode in Halifax Harbour and Rose is sure that the catastrophe is her fault.

FORMATS:

DAISY talking book on CD, online digital audio through the CNIB Digital Library website.

**MUD CITY  
DEBORAH ELLIS  
AGES 12 AND UP**

Parvana's best friend Shauzia has fled Afghanistan, only to end up in a refugee camp in Pakistan. Desperate to flee to France, she decides to disguise herself as a boy once again, and work or beg until she can get away. But life on the streets is dangerous and terrifying. Even with a loyal dog, a strong will, luck and bravery, Shauzia discovers that the old choices are not as easy as they used to be.

FORMATS:

DAISY talking book on CD, online digital audio through the CNIB Digital Library website.

**ONE MORE BORDER:  
THE TRUE STORY OF  
ONE FAMILY'S ESCAPE FROM  
WAR-TORN EUROPE  
WILLIAM KAPLAN WITH  
SHELLEY TANAKA  
AGES 8 TO 12**

During the Second World War, as Nazi troops took over Europe, thousands of Jews tried to flee Hitler's advance. This is the true story of one family's harrowing escape to Canada: travelling by train and ship, they made their way three-quarters of the way around the world to freedom.

FORMATS:

DAISY talking book on CD, online digital audio through the CNIB Digital Library website.

**PARVANA'S JOURNEY  
DEBORAH ELLIS  
AGES 12 AND UP**

Parvana, a young girl who lives in Afghanistan during the Taliban years, leaves Kabul to search for her family. Disguised as a boy, she travels with other children: an infant boy, a nine-year-old girl who believes she has magical powers over land

mines, and an obnoxious boy with one leg. As war breaks out, Parvana realizes that her family could be anywhere in the country, but she knows she has to find them.

FORMATS:

DAISY talking book on CD, online digital audio through the CNIB Digital Library website, Braille (contracted), recorded cassettes.

**REMEMBER ME  
IRENE N. WATTS  
AGES 12 AND UP**

At the beginning of the Second World War, 11-year-old Marianne, a young Jewish girl, is sent away from Berlin by her mother, and goes to Britain for safety. As a refugee in London and later in a Welsh mining town, she experiences unhappiness. She does not speak English; she is not welcome in her sponsor's home; and she misses her family. Marianne wonders how she will find the strength to survive alone in a strange land.

FORMATS:

DAISY talking book on CD, online digital audio through the CNIB Digital Library website, Braille (contracted), recorded cassettes.

**A RIVER APART  
ROBERT SUTHERLAND  
AGES 11 TO 13**

An action-packed depiction of the War of 1812. Set along the border area near Ogdensburg, New York, and Prescott, Ontario, the novel follows the adventures of Jamie Shaw, a reluctant participant in a war that pits friend against friend.

FORMATS:

DAISY talking book on CD.

**THE ROOT CELLAR  
JANET LUNN  
AGES 10 TO 14**

When 12-year-old Rose Larkin is orphaned, circumstances force her to move to rural Ontario. There, she discovers an old root cellar and finds herself brought back to the time of the American Civil War.

Winner of the Canadian Library Association Book of the Year for Children Award in 1984.

FORMATS:

DAISY talking book on CD, online digital audio through the CNIB Digital Library website, Braille (contracted), recorded cassettes.



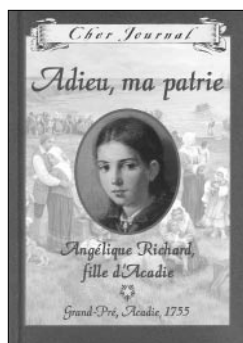
# A WISH FOR PEACE

## FRENCH TITLES

**ADIEU, MA PATRIE.**  
**ANGÉLIQUE RICHARD,**  
**FILLE D'ACADIE, GRAND-PRÉ,**  
**ACADIE, 1755**

SHARON STEWART  
 TRANSLATION: FRANCINE FAUBERT  
 MARKHAM, ONT.: ÉDITIONS  
 SCHOLASTIC, 2004. 204 P.  
 (CHER JOURNAL)  
 ISBN 0439961378  
**AGES 9 TO 12**

Available in English under the title  
*Banished from Our Home: The Acadian  
 Diary of Angélique Richard*  
 (Markham, Ont.: Scholastic Canada, 2004)



*Adieu, ma patrie* deals with the deportation of the Acadians in 1755. Angélique uses her diary to express feelings she cannot share with family and others close to her. But after her brother Victor leaves home and sides with the British – the enemies of the Acadians – she begins recording events every day.

The Acadians are soon driven from their land, which has been turned over to British settlers. Angélique describes cruel and heart-rending moments of the deportation: the separation of family members on overcrowded boats, famine, epidemics and death.

Once dispersed, the Acadians have to start their lives over in unfamiliar lands. But at the

end of the story, we learn that, proud of their homeland, the Acadians hold high hopes of returning there one day.

Historical visual documents, photographs of sites and maps showing the itineraries of Acadian deportees lend this historical novel a documentary aspect. –CM

**ALEXIS D'HAÏTI**  
**MARIE-CÉLIE AGNANT**  
 MONTRÉAL: HURTUBISE HMH,  
 1999. 142 P.  
 (COLLECTION ATOUT; 30. RÉCIT)  
 ISBN 2894283741  
**AGES 12 AND UP**

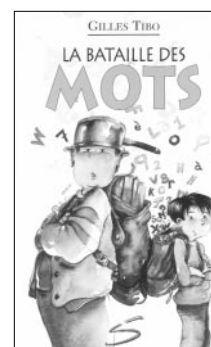


Eleven-year-old Alexis is forced to leave the safety of the little farming village a few kilometres from Port-au-Prince where he and his mother live. They must flee their Haitian Eden and seek refuge in the United States. They have no news of his father, who was imprisoned for having organized a farm cooperative. The military dictatorship in

power in their country uses a peasant uprising as a pretext to destroy the local economy. In this way, the large landholders from the capital can gain possession more easily of the fertile, well-irrigated land in the valley between the mountains and the sea. Alexis's quest is to rediscover freedom, friendship and joy in life – states of being usually taken for granted in childhood.

Presenting a child's point of view, the author recounts an escape by boat, life in refugee camps and an endless wait for political status. The reader comes to understand that even a child in exile, who experiences brushes with death and depression, has a survival instinct: overcoming any situation is only a matter of heeding this instinct. This short novel is able to create a vivid picture of the life of the "boat people." The linear construction of the text is interspersed with rich descriptions that evoke the scents and colours of the vegetation of the lost paradise. The simplicity of the writing and the poetry of some passages may at times surprise the reader in light of the intensity of the events recounted. –ST

**LA BATAILLE DES MOTS**  
 GILLES TIBO  
 ILLUSTRATIONS: BRUNO ST-AUBIN  
 SAINT-LAMBERT, QUEBEC: SOULIÈRES  
 ÉDITEUR, 2004. 48 P.  
 (MA PETITE VACHE À MAL  
 AUX PATTES; 52)  
 ISBN 2922225976  
**AGES 7 TO 9**  
 Previously published under the title  
*Moi guerrier, toi pou!*  
 (Paris: Casterman, ©2000)



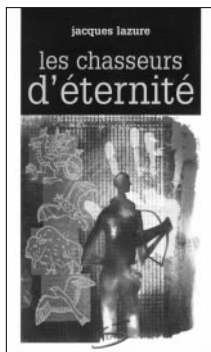
Pou, who is kind, always polite, well brought up, and a model student, is the target of the bully named Guerrier. Claiming to be big and mean, Guerrier has enemies everywhere: at school, in the alley, on the playground. With his big arms, his shield and imposing physique, he has what it takes to terrorize smaller children. He spreads fear wherever he goes. He believes that he is truly invincible. One day he declares a fight to the finish with Pou, and a ruthless battle ensues.

The text by Gilles Tibo illustrates how reality can often turn nightmarish when a child is picked on at school. The humour and finesse with which the subject is treated

make this little tale a formidable weapon for other victims to keep in mind. The illustrations by Bruno St-Aubin are a marvellous complement to the hope-filled story, which shows that violence is far from the best way to settle a conflict. —PB

**LES CHASSEURS D'ÉTERNITÉ**  
**JACQUES LAZURE**  
**ILLUSTRATIONS: NORMAND COUSINEAU**

SAINT-LAMBERT, QUEBEC: SOULIÈRES ÉDITEUR, 2003. 246 P.  
 (COLLECTION GRAFFITI); 17)  
 ISBN 2922225887  
**AGES 12 AND UP**



In a world in the throes of conflicts between Éclatants, Fkions and Rebelles, the young Éclatant shepherd, Baal, finds himself forced to follow three Rebelles in search of the *oulalouk*. Anyone who succeeds in capturing this legendary beast is endowed with magic powers. Then begins a long march, during which the Rebelles and the young Éclatant must learn to get along with each other in order to achieve their goal. Baal believes he will be rescued by his peers, but he starts to have doubts. The encounter with the Fkions injects new tensions into the small group.

Despite a few slow passages, *Les chasseurs d'éternité* tells an interesting story with many developments: it is the story of a quest where strangers must learn to live together. Cultural and religious differences are the sources of tension between

peoples. Dialogue may provide the path for conflict resolution. Trying to appreciate the values of others without denigrating them, taking small steps can help to lower tensions – this is the message conveyed in the story. The theme of war is ever present and the author asks us to reflect on the reality of these differences. —PB

**LE CHEVALIER DES ARBRES**  
**LAURENT GRIMON**

SAINT-LAURENT, QUEBEC: ÉDITIONS PIERRE TISSEYRE, 2002. 327 P.  
 (CONQUÊTES; 90. AVENTURES)  
 ISBN 2890518280  
**AGES 12 AND UP**



In 1944, France is still under German occupation and resistance groups mount attacks. High school students at a boarding

school near the town of Conflans are taught by priests who adamantly refuse to let them go into the forest beyond the school's boundaries. Among the priests is Father Janin, nicknamed the cat or the "Knight of the Trees." What could be more enticing for 13-year-old Lucien than to embark on forbidden explorations and claim in front of his schoolmates that he knows the secrets of the Indians? Lucien Goldman, who comes from Baie-Saint-Paul, is hiding at the school under the name of Lucien Miron. When Lucien and his schoolmates return from an escapade, they discover a dead German soldier. Tensions mount when SS division soldiers (elite Nazi troops) arrive at the school.

What began as fun will put everyone's life in danger. The "Knight of the Trees" and the other priests must protect the students. This gripping novel provides insight into how the Resistance network functioned and it reveals the true character of people who must face danger. —JP



**UN COQUELICOT POUR SE SOUVENIR**  
**HEATHER PATTERSON**  
**ILLUSTRATIONS: RON LIGHTBURN**  
 MARKHAM, ONT.: ÉDITIONS SCHOLASTIC, 2004. 30 P.  
 ISBN 0439967872  
**AGES 6 TO 8**

Available in English under the title  
*A Poppy Is to Remember*  
 (Markham, Ont.: North Winds Press, 2004)



This simple but moving book by Heather Patterson tells how the poppy became the symbol that honours the memory of those who fought in the major international conflicts of the 20th century. The origin of the symbol is attributed to the poppy's presence on the battlefields of Europe during the First World War. It is also connected with the famous poem "In Flanders Fields," by Canadian soldier John McCrae. The words of the poem are reproduced in full. Through a series of realistic scenes, the book pays tribute to the men and women who suffered the effects of war; it helps children understand why this flower is worn so proudly on Remembrance Day every year as a sign of freedom and peace. The oil painting illustrations were created by Ron Lightburn, 1992 recipient of the Governor General's Literary Award for Children's Literature (Illustration). His rich portrayals give young readers a better understanding of war – a difficult subject and one with serious consequences for society.

A final section presents historical information about the use

of the poppy as a symbol and about Remembrance Day. Illustrations, reproductions of old postcards and period photographs provide quality visual documentation for young readers, parents and teachers. —NL

**UNE DETTE DE SANG, OU LA VENGEANCE DE PIERRE PHILIBERT, MILICIEU DE LA NOUVELLE-FRANCE**

**DANIEL MATIVAT**  
 SAINT-LAURENT, QUEBEC: ÉDITIONS PIERRE TISSEYRE, 2003. 321 P.  
 (CONQUÊTES; 99. HISTOIRE)  
 ISBN 2890518787  
**AGES 12 AND UP**



This historical novel is about an upright merchant's son from Québec whose life is thrown into turmoil by the horrors of war, the trials he faces and the deceit of men. The family of Pierre Philibert has lived on the land for three generations, and he is the youngest volunteer to join Montcalm's battalion in 1757. After months under a French commander who thinks himself superior in class, Pierre feels the need to know he is fighting for a good cause and for values he holds dear: his father's store, his sister Antoinette, the beauty of the fall foliage and the season's first snowfall over his homeland.

Defended by men who are less patriotic than Pierre, New France eventually falls. In his second year of combat, Pierre's illusions of being a soldier vanish. And in almost impossible circumstances, he also meets the love of his life. His

story is full of drama and heartbreaking separations; his situation vacillates between justice and injustice. With remarkable courage and an iron will, Pierre faces experiences that will mark him forever. —ANC

**ENFANTS EN GUERRE. SOUVENIRS D'ENFANTS DE LA GUERRE 1939-1945**  
 TRANSLATION AND ADAPTATION: **KEES VANDERHEYDEN**  
**ILLUSTRATIONS: SYLVAIN TREMBLAY**  
 MONTRÉAL: BORÉAL, 2001. 161 P.  
 (BORÉAL JUNIOR; 72. HISTOIRES VRAIES)  
 ISBN 276460095X  
**AGES 9 TO 12**



*Enfants en guerre* contains testimony collected and translated by Kees Vanderheyden: these 19 accounts are childhood memories of the Second World War. Among them is the story of Susan, a little girl from Nuremberg who remembers the "Night of Broken Glass," November 9, 1937, when the Nazis pillaged Jewish synagogues, businesses and homes in Germany. Young Jan from Warsaw has to live in a village with his grandmother because the Gestapo (the Nazis secret police) arrested his mother. Romuald remembers the night when Russian soldiers banished his family to Siberia. The testimony of the young Britons Tom, Jim and Ron tells of privation and the fierce bombings of London and Coventry. In Holland, Vanderheyden himself remembers when his father was almost arrested for buying



meat on the black market. He also recalls his unusual encounters with Russian prisoners. The memories of the young Germans Heinz, Agnes, Lotte and Eberhard revolve around hunger, bombardments and fear of reprisals.

The conversational style of the texts conveys the simple and direct emotions felt by children. Each eye-witness account is preceded by a short text explaining the history of certain topics such as the invasion of Poland and Russia, the Holocaust and the bombing of Great Britain by the German air force. A book that rings true! —JP

**FIDÈLES ÉLÉPHANTS**  
**YUKIO TSUCHIYA**  
 TRANSLATION: **MICHÈLE MARINEAU**  
**ILLUSTRATIONS: BRUCE ROBERTS**  
 MONTRÉAL: LES 400 COUPS, 2001, ©2000. 31 P.  
 (CARRÉ BLANC)  
 ISBN 2895400067  
**AGES 8 AND UP**

Available in English under the title: *Faithful Elephants*, English translation from the original Japanese edition entitled *Kawaiso-na zo*.



The story *Faithful Elephants* is familiar to all Japanese children, since it is recounted over the radio each year on August 15. During the Second World War, Japanese military authorities

ordered the director of the Tokyo Zoo to kill all the animals in order to protect the population if bombs fell on the zoo and freed the wild animals.

This did happen and most of the animals were poisoned, but the elephants were too smart to swallow poison and their skin was too thick for a syringe to pierce. So the elephants starved and died after suffering for more than 15 days. Their keepers could not bear to watch them suffer in agony.

At first glance, the simple watercolour illustrations present an idyllic picture despite the raging war. Supple flowering cherry branches frame the first images; elephant trunks raised as if to play the trumpet are in harmony with the spring flora. The illustrator then uses a palette of grey and sienna to depict the inert mass of elephants. The pain of the keepers is reflected in the expression on their faces and in their bodies, bent under the weight of their suffering.

Bruce Roberts has succeeded in illustrating a painful story with great sensitivity and simplicity. He uses Japanese techniques in which quick strokes sketch and suggest. The use of calligraphy and the texture of the Japanese paper add to the authentic character of this book. —JP

**LA FORTERESSE SUSPENDUE**  
**ROGER CANTIN**  
 MONTRÉAL: QUÉBEC AMÉRIQUE,  
 2001. 178 P.  
 (CONTES POUR TOUS; 17)  
 ISBN 2764401000  
**AGES 9 TO 12**



For years, two clans from different social classes have shared a campground and antagonized each other. How can a war handed down from one generation to the next be ended? These “children who take their war game seriously” face a dilemma: they must choose between friendship and the need to prove their aggressive nature. They must at all cost avoid the humiliation of defeat for fear the grownups will see them as weaklings.

These young warriors use every means at their disposal to destabilize the adversary: espionage, sabotage and the “eco-diabolical” weapon. But the hanging fortress is the supreme magical invention to demoralize the enemy and show technological prowess.

This rivalry places Sarah and Julien in an awkward situation; they are in love but on opposite sides. Furthermore, their clandestine liaison leads them to question the reasons underlying this endless war.

When frustration is at its peak and imagination has run dry in one of the camps, anarchy takes over and tragedy looms. Will irreparable damage be done?

*La forteresse suspendue* is also a film in the “Contes pour tous” series produced by Rock Demers. –JMB

**LE GÉNÉRAL DES SOLDATS DE BOIS**  
**IAIN LAWRENCE**  
 TRANSLATION: CÉCILE WAJSBROT  
 PARIS: HACHETTE LIVRE, 2003. 280 P.  
 (LE LIVRE DE POCHE JEUNESSE; 930)  
 ISBN 2013220995  
**AGES 12 AND UP**

Available in English under the title  
*Lord of the Nutcracker Men*  
 (New York: Dell Laurel-Leaf, 2003, ©2001)

It is fall 1914 and the Great War has begun. Johnny’s father, a toy manufacturer, leaves for the front. When London is threatened, Johnny’s mother sends him to the country to stay with his Aunt Ivy; nonetheless, his father writes to him regularly. Each chapter of the book begins with one of his letters. The letters are accompanied by wooden soldiers that his father carves in his free time. These letters inspire bloody battles in the backyard. The toy soldiers Johnny receives grow more and more troubling in their portrayal of the sordid reality of war. He has the impression that everything that happens in the garden is also happening in France and that he can decide the outcome of the war.

The novel *Lord of the Nutcracker Men* is a realistic and sensitive book about a troubling period in world history. It describes the atrocities of the Great War – the trenches, fear, horror and death. It takes a critical look at the despair of the soldiers and at the pain that war imposes on those who are left at home. –AC

**LE GRAND VOYAGE DE MONSIEUR**  
**GILLES TIBO**

ILLUSTRATIONS: LUC MELANSON  
 SAINT-LAMBERT, QUEBEC: DOMINIQUE  
 ET COMPAGNIE, 2001. 32 P.  
 ISBN 2895121915 (BOUND)  
 ISBN 2895121893 (PAPERBACK)  
**AGES 4 TO 7**

Available in English under the title  
*The Grand Journey of Mr. Man*  
 (Saint-Lambert, Que.: Dominique & Friends, 2001)

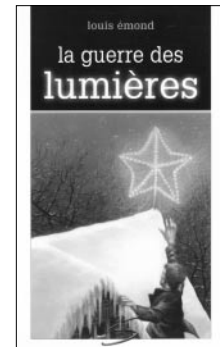


After losing his child, a man decides to leave everything behind and take a trip around the world. During his journey, Mr. Man meets a child who is a victim of war. The child has lost everything and is alone in the world. A friendship develops between Mr. Man and the child. Feeling less lonely, they set off together.

Gilles Tibo tackles the serious subject of the death of a loved one and the suffering it causes. This is a simple story that is expressed in just two or three sentences per double page. *The Grand Journey of Mr. Man* tells a sad tale, but it also delivers a message of love and hope.

The impressionist illustrations are subdued. The warm colours reflect the emotions – pain, solitude, friendship – of the characters and ambiance of the story, while still allowing for imagination. The illustrations are punctuated with detail: in the middle of an empty trail, we see objects left behind by spectators, an umbrella, a glass, glasses, etc. The images, which will captivate young readers, add to the text while conveying their own message. –AC

**LA GUERRE DES LUMIÈRES**  
**LOUIS ÉMOND**  
 SAINT-LAMBERT, QUEBEC: SOULIÈRES  
 ÉDITEUR, 2003. 130 P.  
 (COLLECTION GRAFFITI; 20)  
 ISBN 292222595X  
**AGES 12 AND UP**

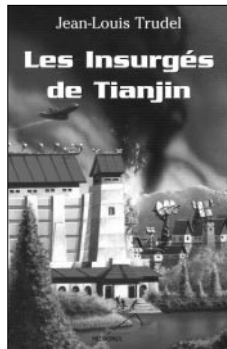


Every year, the residents of Carillon road await the tradition of decorating their houses for the holiday season with great anticipation. And for good reason – everyone wants to win the “Holiday Splendour” contest and receive the prestigious golden cane. But this year, to everyone’s consternation, the new Kosky family refuse to decorate their house. At first, the others try to get them to join in using peaceful means; however, the methods of persuasion gradually become more and more intimidating. Then the unexpected happens: the unforeseeable incident that will change the course of the future and cast a special light on these events of everyday life. *La guerre des lumières* illustrates how conflicts are born and makes us think about human and social relationships. A simple story seen through the eyes of a child, it is an excellent lesson in humanism. –DSH

## LES INSURGÉS DE TIANJIN

JEAN-LOUIS TRUDEL

MONTREAL: MEDIASPAUL, 2004. 215 P.  
(JEUNESSE-POP; 154. SCIENCE-FICTION)  
ISBN 2894206100  
AGES 12 AND UP



Samuel, captain of the spaceship *Christophe*, has just returned from the planet Tianjin with his crew. Also on board is Princess Yoshiko, who has recently fled her planet following an invasion by Emperor Chang.

On their arrival in Capitolia, seat of the government of the Republic of Bêta, the captain and his distinguished passenger request an audience with the nation's leaders. The princess begs assistance for her people, but the two supreme consuls of Capitolia are reluctant to trigger a war between the Republic and the Empire. Samuel agrees to take the princess back to the planet Tianjin incognito and to mount a popular revolt against the imperial invader. Members of the Tianjin resistance call upon the help of leading biologists, who make the planet's flora and fauna part of the campaign to liberate themselves from the hold of Emperor Chang and his henchmen. Samuel, his friend Corinne and the princess are faced with the extremely risky task of obtaining a genetic sample from the invaders.

This latest episode in the "L'Ère du Nouvel Empire" series of interest to teenagers, tells a thought-provoking tale of violence-free biological warfare in a far away galaxy. —JP

## JOYEUX NOËL, ANNA

JEAN LITTLE

TRANSLATION: CLAUDINE VIVIER

MONTREAL: HURTUBISE HMH,

1998. 283 P.

(COLLECTION ATOUT; 23. RÉCIT)

ISBN 2894282990

AGES 9 TO 12

Available in English under the title

*From Anna*

(New York: HarperTrophy, 1973, ©1972)



In 1933, the Solden family embarks on a voyage to a new world. Anna's father senses the growing threat to their freedom in Germany and decides to emigrate to Canada. Already facing learning difficulties in her mother tongue, Anna panics at the idea of having to

speak English. Her relationship with her brothers and sisters is conflicted: they are mean and snooty towards her, and give her the nickname "Anna the Oaf" because of her habit of tripping over things.

Once in Canada, the cause of her apparent clumsiness is discovered and she is enrolled in a special class. Everything changes and Anna's life begins anew. She thrives with this new attention; the sympathy of her teacher and classmates helps soothe her psychological wounds. Anna surmounts several major obstacles, including being able to read aloud in front of the whole class without any of the usual jeering. Her self-confidence soars, and her positive attitude earns her the admiration of all.

Filled with a new enthusiasm, Anna is determined that her first Christmas outside Germany will be a special one. She searches out unusual and special gifts for the members of her family – gifts that will alter her relationship with all of them forever. —JMB

## KOLETAILLE

SYLVIE PINSONNEAULT

ILLUSTRATIONS: LINO

MONTREAL: LES 400 COUPS, 2002. 32 P.

(CARRÉ BLANC)

ISBN 2895400652

AGES 6 TO 9



The only "hero" of this unusual book is a tank called Koletaille. He is a mass of contradictions: the very image of power and conflict, Koletaille comes across as a juggernaut – but also as a great lump of useless metal. He is the epitome of the forces of destruction and the embodiment of warrior pride. Fond of camouflage, he is all too visible. Encased in heavy armour, he moves nimbly on his tractor feet. He dreams of being a secret agent, but makes the most horrendous racket when he moves. And this metal monster just loves to travel.

The stark realism of the illustrations that accompany this large-format *Koletaille* is somewhat softened by the subtle humour of the text. Although tones of yellow and brown prevail, a number of the more dramatic scenes were depicted using red and black.

Another original and instructive feature of the book can be found in the two final pages, where the author lists the actual costs of a tank and goes on to suggest other, more "sensible" uses for this money dedicated to war. These disturbing facts reveal a society unsure of its priorities. —JMB



**LETTRES DE DÉCEMBRE 1944**

ALAIN M. BERGERON

ILLUSTRATIONS: JULES PRUD'HOMME

SAINT-LAURENT, QUEBEC: ÉDITIONS

PIERRE TISSEYRE, 2004. 51 P.

(SÉSAME; 63)

ISBN 2890518590

AGES 7 TO 9



Inspired by the real-life experiences of soldier Armand Boily in 1944, this special Christmas story focuses on a series of letters sent to Santa Claus by nine-year-old Thérèse Perrault.

The family has not heard from her older brother Richard for three months, and her parents fear he has been killed at the front. In despair, the little girl sends Santa Claus four letters in quick succession, between December 10 and 12, appealing for his help. The only present she asks for is news of her brother.

The fifth and final missive, dated December 25, is a thank-you letter that reveals the story's happy ending.

Sometimes, listening carefully can be the prelude to one of life's happy surprises.

The simple illustrations created by Jules Prud'homme capture the atmosphere of the period and the emotions experienced by the characters in *Lettres de décembre 1944*. —JMB

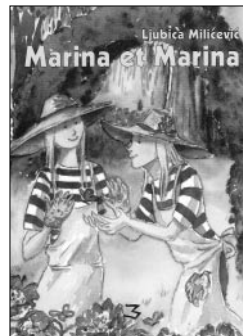


**MARINA ET MARINA**  
LJUBICA MILIČEVIĆ

LAVAL, QUEBEC: TROIS, 2002. 62 P.  
(EN TROIS MOTS POUR TE RACONTER)

ISBN 2895160422

AGES 8 TO 10



Set in Kosovo, this story recounts the lives of two young girls with the same name: Marina. They are as alike as two peas in a pod. They spend their days happily together in their small village, which is home to two distinct communities.

With the arrival of spring, they devote their energies to cultivating red and white peonies, and even produce a hybrid that becomes the talk of the region.

But the summer passes and the happy times are over; hatred and conflict divide the two communities. The clear blue sky darkens with the smoke of burning houses. Forced to

acknowledge the threat, the two families separate, but not forever – the friendship will eventually be rekindled. The tale of *Marina et Marina* is well structured and supported by the black-and-white illustrations. —CM

**UNE MISSION POUR VAILLANT**

ALAIN M. BERGERON

ILLUSTRATIONS: SAMPAR

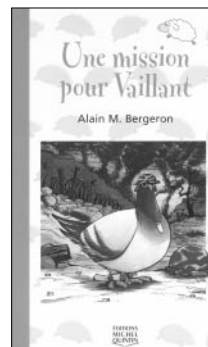
WATERLOO, QUEBEC: ÉDITIONS MICHEL

QUINTIN, 2004. 44 P.

(COLLECTION SAUTE-MOUTON; 28)

ISBN 2894352573

AGES 7 TO 9



This is a tale inspired by the heroic saga of Vaillant, a soldier-pigeon active in the 1914–1918 war, whose exploit is commemorated to this day on a plaque at the ruins of Fort Vaux, in France. With his troops out of

position, Commander Raynal has no choice but to entrust a critical mission to his only remaining carrier pigeon, Vaillant (whose name means “brave” in English). The pigeon’s task is to carry a message asking for reinforcements across enemy lines and through clouds of gas and toxic fumes.

Living up to his name and the expectations of his commander, Vaillant fulfils his mission with courage and determination. He manages to prevent his precious message from falling into enemy hands and he eventually makes his way back safely to friendly territory.

Despite the underlying tension of such a wartime mission, the text by Bergeron and the illustrations by Sampar are lightened by touches of humour. —JMB

**NOUS REVIENDRONS**  
EN ACADIE!

ANDRÉE-PAULE MIGNOT

MONTREAL: HURTUBISE HMH,

2000. 116 P.

(COLLECTION ATOUT; 41. HISTOIRE)

ISBN 2894284136

AGES 9 TO 12



Soon after moving into the old ancestral house recently purchased by her father, young Alix makes an intriguing discovery. Deep within a dusty hiding place, she finds a letter written 200 hundred years ago! Reading it, she makes the acquaintance of a boy called Mathieu Martin, his father

François and his mother Marie. She also learns about the tragic history of the Acadians, who were forced from their homes and deported by the British authorities in 1755. But the letter conceals a far greater surprise.

*Nous reviendrons en Acadie!*, another marvellous story in the “Atout Histoire” series, offers a colourful account of the period known as the Great Upheaval – one of the darkest moments in Canada’s history. A skilful wordsmith, Andrée-Paule Mignot has composed a narrative that will keep young readers on the edge of their seats. Her characters are enticing and their emotions are vividly conveyed to all who delve into the story. *Nous reviendrons en Acadie!* is entertaining and informative. –NS

**NUL POISSON OÙ ALLER**  
**MARIE-FRANCINE HÉBERT**  
**ILLUSTRATIONS: JANICE NADEAU**  
 MONTRÉAL: LES 400 COUPS, 2003. 48 P.  
 (LES GRANDS ALBUMS)  
 ISBN 2895401179  
**AGES 12 AND UP**



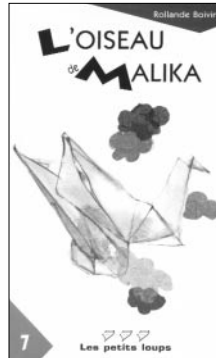
Zolfe is beginning to realize that her parents are secretly planning a major trip. And from the snatches of conversation she overhears, the little girl knows she will only be able to take along the bare essentials. Sooner than anticipated and in

utter confusion, Zolfe, her family and their friends are obliged to leave their homes and join a flood of people forced into exile. But they have nowhere to go. Against all odds, Zolfe manages to take Émil with her, a fish that was a present from her grandmother. Zolfe entrusts him to her best friend Maiy, and the fish becomes the only link between them. The girls’ friendship even survives the hostility that divides their fathers. In response to the harshness of war, Zolfe takes refuge in her “dream vase,” an imaginary haven where she can forget all her unanswered questions and be free.

The subtly toned, full-page watercolour pictures create a melancholy mood. Adopting a child’s perspective, the illustrator has interpreted the text with flair. War is difficult to imagine, even for adults, but it is conjured convincingly in Janice Nadeau’s images.

Winner of the 2004 Governor General’s Literary Award for Children’s Literature (Illustration), the Prix Marcel-Couture du Salon du livre de Montréal, and the 2003 Prix illustration jeunesse GLV et Salon du livre de Trois-Rivières (New Illustrator category). –ST

**L’OISEAU DE MALIKA**  
**ROLLANDE BOIVIN**  
**ILLUSTRATIONS:**  
**ANNA BUDZYNSKA-LONC**  
 QUÉBEC: LE LOUP DE GOUTTIÈRE,  
 1999. 58 P.  
 (PETITS LOUPS; 7)  
 ISBN 2895290032  
**AGES 7 TO 9**



Third-grade teacher Francine reads aloud to her class from a letter written by her young friend, Malika. Sent from Sarajevo, the letter tells of the disappearance of Malika’s parents and of the bomb that destroyed her family home and took the life of her pet bird. Shocked by the story, the children are eager to know how

Francine will respond. The teacher recounts the touching love story of Malika and Picolo, the orphaned baby nightingale that the girl adopted and cared for. In a gesture of peace and solidarity with Malika, the schoolchildren decide to make a large white bird for her out of paper and send it east to the land where she lives.

This moving novel by Rollande Boivin is a reminder of the terrible impact that war can have on families and particularly on children who suddenly find themselves alone in the world. Black and white illustrations by Anna Budzynska-Lonc are interspersed within the narrative and they help to bring the main characters to life. –NL

**L’OISEAU DE PASSAGE**  
**HÉLÈNE VACHON**  
**ILLUSTRATIONS: YAYO**  
 SAINT-LAMBERT, QUÉBEC: DOMINIQUE  
 ET COMPAGNIE, 2001. 118 P.  
 (ROMAN BLEU; 3)  
 ISBN 2895122067  
**AGES 10 AND UP**



A bird dives through a classroom window and bangs into the shoulder of a young boy named Gendron, who faints. This incident, whether the result of happenstance or destiny, turns the lives of the children and the teacher, Mrs. Glatstein, upside down: they discover that Gendron is “starving.”

The class decides to take up a collection to help him. Mrs. Glatstein throws herself body



and soul into the fundraising. She feels guilty for not having recognized the signs of hunger. Had she not lived through the same thing in the Second World War?

The novel portrays with sensitivity two serious subjects, poverty and war, as well as the after effects they have on people's lives. The story is both sad and humorous. The surreal pencil sketches are amusing, adding to the text while making the situation less alarming. The duo of H el ene Vachon and Yayo, the creators of the Somerset series, once again presents us with a literary achievement. –AC

**LA PEUR AU CŒUR**

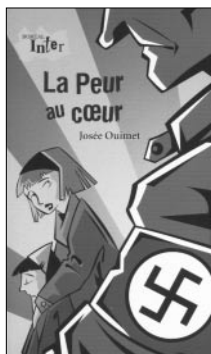
JOSÉE OUIMET

MONTR EAL: BOR EAL, 2000. 127 P.

(BOR EAL INTER; 31)

ISBN 2764600259

AGES 12 AND UP



Helene, a German girl living in Kassel during the Second World War, is against Nazism. Her father and uncle have been arrested on charges of conspiracy, and her friend Gert is forced to enrol in the German army, along with all the other boys in his class. Helene, for her part, is sent to a training camp for young troublemakers. The matrons at the camp are particularly hard on her, and as a punishment she is sent to work on a farm, where she takes care of two little orphan girls.

Helene and the young girls escape and are eventually rescued by Ulrich, a First World

War veteran who disapproves of Nazism. Helene and her protector make their way back to her hometown of Kassel, now under bombardment by the Allies.

Surmounting all sorts of daily difficulties and humiliations, Helene eventually regains her freedom. Just when things seem most hopeless, an inner strength drives her on, filling her with a fierce determination to see her loved ones again.

This heart-rending story offers a glimpse into the fate of young Germans who resisted the Nazi regime. A number of historical notes also provide information about Nazism in general. –CM

**LA ROUTE DE CHLIFA**

MICH LE MARINEAU

BOUCHERVILLE: QU EBEC AM RIQUE,

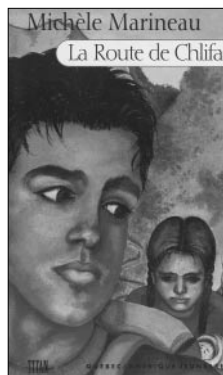
1996,  1992. 245 P.

(TITAN JEUNESSE; 16)

ISBN 2890378128

AGES 12 AND UP

Available in English under the title *The Road to Chlifa* (Red Deer, Alta.: Red Deer College Press, 1995)



*La route de Chlifa* tells the story of Karim, a child born in the war-torn country of Lebanon. Events force Karim

to leave his school in Beirut, and he later finds himself in a large high school in Montr eal. Most of the narrative concerns the period before his arrival in Quebec. It tells of his love for Nada; of a dreadful bombing; and of Karim's decision, one he hardly understands himself: to accompany Nada's sister Maha and her baby brother Jad on their journey to Chlifa. There, they seek refuge with a family friend, and the trip proves full of surprises.

This is an extraordinary novel. The children who are its protagonists are forced to face situations that sometimes defy understanding. The story encourages reflection on the destiny, daily life, friendships and families of these young people, whose lives are played out against a backdrop of permanent war. Readers are left

wondering at their amazing capacity to adapt to such an alien world. Happily, there is a glimmer of hope for the children of *La route de Chlifa*.

This novel won the 1993 Governor General's Literary Award for Children's Literature (Text). –PB

**LE SECRET D'ANCA**

MICHEL LAVOIE

HULL, QU EBEC: VENTS D'OUEST,

1996. 105 P.

(ROMAN ADO; 1. AVENTURE)

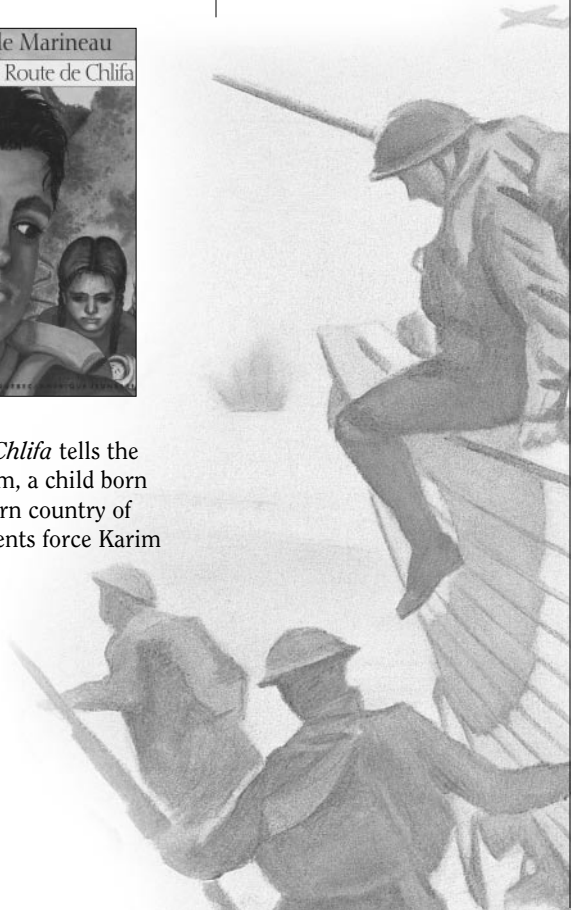
ISBN 292160325X

AGES 12 AND UP



Anca and her family lived in Romania during the Ceausescu dictatorship. They have fled to Canada and are doing their best to adapt to life in this new country. Unable to work in their professions, Anca's parents eke out a living working in jobs that are new to them.

Anca feels very lonely. At school, most of the children make fun of her and reject her. She has just one friend, St ephanie. She is a very curious girl, and she knows that Anca is hiding something. Anca does indeed have a very big secret. But can she trust St ephanie enough to tell her? It is a very difficult decision because she could lose her only friend. Will Anca confide in her? Will St ephanie be able to listen to the entire secret?



Michel Lavoie's style draws us in, making us want to read Anca's story all at once. We want to know what Anca is hiding. Will you be able to resist the temptation of skipping ahead to the ending to discover the mysterious secret? —LC

**LES TRANSFIGURÉS  
DU CENTAURE**

JEAN-LOUIS TRUDEL  
MONTREAL: MEDIASPAUL, 2001. 201 P.  
(JEUNESSE-POP; 143. SCIENCE-FICTION)  
ISBN 2894204760  
AGES 12 AND UP



It all starts with a successful escape. But who is this daring Captain Corinne? And what will be the consequences of the action taken by Captain Ferrale and Samuel – will they spell disaster? Whatever happens, it is vital to stay loyal to the cause: everything possible must be done to prevent the lost children from falling into the hands of the Imperial Forces.

Although the author's narrative style is a little arduous,

this interstellar adventure is sure to hold the attention of teenage readers. Once they get to know the characters introduced in *Les transfigurés du Centaure*, they will be eager to devour the other novels by Jean-Louis Trudel, published in the “Jeunesse-Pop/Science-fiction” series. —NS

**TRENTE MINUTES DE COURAGE**

JOSÉE OUMET  
MONTREAL: HURTUBISE HMH,  
2004. 124 P.  
(COLLECTION ATOUT; 88. HISTOIRE)  
ISBN 2894286953  
AGES 11 AND UP



Can Simon's father really be a traitor? Could there be truth in what some people are saying? Did he leave his lookout post and allow General Wolfe's troops access to the cove of Anse au Foulon and the whole of New France? All is revealed in this historical novel set against the backdrop of the Battle of the Plains of Abraham and the close of a glorious period in the history of French Canada. The main characters are Simon and Mathilde, two young accomplices who attempt the impossible with amazing cool-headedness: to save their motherland.

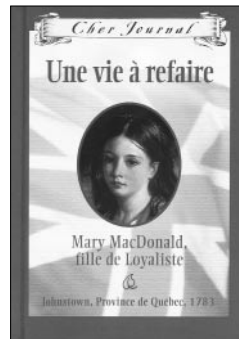
Published as part of the “Atout Histoire” series and written to awaken an interest in history, this novel does not take an overly didactic approach. *Trente minutes de courage* is easy to read and highly entertaining. —NS

**UNE VIE À REFAIRE.  
MARY MACDONALD, FILLE  
DE LOYALISTE**

KARLEEN BRADFORD  
MARKHAM, ONT.: ÉDITIONS  
SCHOLASTIC, 2004. 224 P.  
(CHER JOURNAL)  
ISBN 0439966531

AGES 9 TO 12

Available in English under the title  
*With Nothing But Our Courage:  
The Loyalist Diary of Mary MacDonald*  
(Markham, Ont.: Scholastic Canada, 2002)



In 1783, colonists loyal to the British Crown clashed with American Patriots during the American War of Independence. Many loyalists were forced to abandon their homes and move north, seeking refuge in the British colonies that today form Canada. Mary MacDonald and her family take flight with only what they can carry in

their wagon, and make their way along the Hudson River towards Lake Champlain. After spending the winter in a refugee camp in Sorel, they clear and settle a plot of land at Johnstown.

The book is divided into short chapters that represent entries in Mary's private journal. Maps, engravings from the colonial period, recipes and archival documents such as a petition, reinforce the historical character of this beautiful publication, with its rough-edged paper and silk bookmark. Young readers will be enthralled by the first-person account of the narrator's experiences. The Dear Canada series presents the history of Canada through the diaries of young girls whose lives have been touched by major events. The other French titles in the series are *Adieu, ma patrie* by Sharon Stewart, *Seule au Nouveau Monde* by Maxine Trottier and *Ma sœur orpheline* by Jean Little. —JP





# A WISH FOR PEACE

## FRENCH TITLES IN ALTERNATE FORMATS

### ENFANTS DE LA RÉBELLION SUZANNE JULIEN AGES 8 TO 12

Two teenagers find the diary of their great-great-grand-mother. Her words brings to life the 1837-1838 activities of the Patriotes. Prix Cécile-Rouleau 1988.

#### FORMATS:

DAISY talking book on CD, online digital audio through the CNIB Digital Library website, recorded cassettes.

### PARVANA, UNE ENFANCE EN AFGHANISTAN DEBORAH ELLIS AGES 12 AND UP

Parvana, a young girl who lives in Afghanistan during the Taliban years, leaves Kabul to search for her family. Disguised as a boy, she travels with other children: an infant boy, a nine-year-old girl who believes she has magical powers over land

mines, and an obnoxious boy with one leg. As war breaks out, Parvana realizes that her family could be anywhere in the country, but she knows she has to find them.

#### FORMATS:

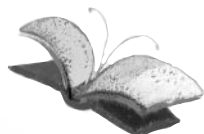
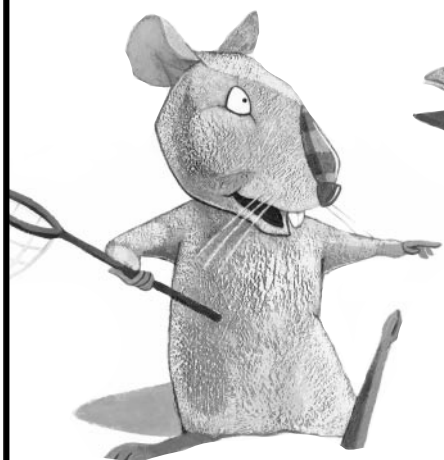
DAISY talking book on CD, recorded cassettes.

### To obtain a copy of these works in alternate format, please contact:

Institut Nazareth et Louis-Braille  
1111 Saint-Charles Street West  
Longueuil QC J4K 5G4  
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Fax: (450) 463-0243  
info@inlb.qc.ca  
www.inlb.qc.ca

# PIKA

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[www.collectionscanada.ca/pika](http://www.collectionscanada.ca/pika)



The Canadian Children's Book Centre



# AWARD-WINNING ENGLISH TITLES

The complete annotations for these award-winning books can be found under the *Read Up On It* heading of Library and Archives Canada website at [www.collectionscanada.ca/read-up-on-it/index-e.html](http://www.collectionscanada.ca/read-up-on-it/index-e.html).

**AMELIA FRANCES  
HOWARD-GIBBON AWARD**  
(Canadian Library Association)

FOR BEST ILLUSTRATIONS  
**MONKEY BUSINESS**  
Wallace Edwards  
Illustrations: Wallace Edwards

**ANN CONNOR BRIMER AWARD**  
(Nova Scotia Library Association)

FOR BEST BOOK  
BY AN ATLANTIC AUTHOR  
**POMIUK, PRINCE OF THE NORTH**  
Alice Walsh  
Illustrations: Jerry Whitehead

**ARTHUR ELLIS AWARDS**  
(The Crime Writers of Canada)

FOR BEST JUVENILE CRIME NOVEL  
**THE BECKONERS**  
Carrie Mac

**BLUE SPRUCE READING  
PROGRAM**  
(Ontario Library Association)

FOR THE BEST CANADIAN CHILDREN'S  
PICTURE BOOK, AS CHOSEN  
BY STUDENTS, K-3

**DRUMHELLER DINOSAUR DANCE**  
Robert Heidebreder  
Illustrations: Bill Slaviv  
and Esperança Melo

**BOOK OF THE YEAR FOR  
CHILDREN AWARD**  
(Canadian Library Association)

FOR BEST TEXT  
**LAST CHANCE BAY**  
Anne Laurel Carter

**THE CHRISTIE HARRIS  
ILLUSTRATED CHILDREN'S  
LITERATURE PRIZE**

(The West Coast Book Prize Society)

FOR BEST PICTURE BOOK AND  
ILLUSTRATED NON-FICTION BOOK  
**GODBYE TO GRIFFITH STREET**  
Marilynn Reynolds  
Illustrations: Renné Benoit

**ELIZABETH MRAZIK-CLEAVER  
CANADIAN PICTURE BOOK  
AWARD**

(International Board on Books for Young  
People – Canada)

FOR BEST ILLUSTRATIONS  
**UN CHANT DE NOËL**

Lucie Papineau (Based on the story  
by Charles Dickens)  
Illustrations: Stéphane Poulin

**GOVERNOR GENERAL'S  
LITERARY AWARD / CHILDREN'S  
LITERATURE 2004**

(The Canada Council for the Arts)

FOR BEST TEXT  
**AIRBORN**  
Kenneth Oppel

FOR BEST ILLUSTRATIONS  
**JABBERWOCKY**  
Lewis Carroll  
Illustrations: Stéphane Jorisich

**HACKMATAACK CHILDREN'S  
CHOICE BOOK AWARD**  
(Atlantic Canadian Book Award)

FOR THE FAVOURITE CANADIAN  
AND ATLANTIC CANADIAN BOOKS  
CHOSEN BY CHILDREN

ENGLISH FICTION AWARD  
**MUD CITY**  
Deborah Ellis

NON-FICTION AWARD  
**TUNNELS!**  
Diane Swanson

**HELEN AND STAN VINE  
CANADIAN JEWISH BOOK  
AWARDS**

Frances and Samuel Stein Memorial  
Award in Children's Literature

**BOBBIE ROSENFELD:  
THE OLYMPIAN WHO COULD  
DO EVERYTHING**  
Anne Dublin

**INFORMATION BOOK  
AWARD 2004**  
(The Children's Literature Roundtables  
of Canada)

FOR BEST NON-FICTION BOOK  
**MADE YOU LOOK:  
HOW ADVERTISING WORKS  
AND WHY YOU SHOULD KNOW**  
Shari Graydon  
Illustrations: Warren Clark

**JEAN THROOP BOOK  
AWARD 2004**

Municipal Chapter of Toronto  
Iode Book Award  
(Imperial Order of the  
Daughters of the Empire)

FOR OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENT BY  
A TORONTO-AREA AUTHOR AND/OR  
ILLUSTRATOR IN CHILDREN'S  
LITERATURE

**PEG AND THE YETI**  
Kenneth Oppel  
Illustrations: Barbara Reid

**MANITOBA YOUNG READER'S  
CHOICE AWARD**  
(Manitoba School Library Association)

FOR THE FAVOURITE CANADIAN BOOK  
OF MANITOBA'S YOUNG READERS  
**WAITING FOR SARAH**  
Bruce McBay and James Heneghan

**MR. CHRISTIE'S  
BOOK AWARD 2003**  
(Christie Brown & Co.)

FOR THE BEST ENGLISH BOOK  
(AGE 7 AND UNDER)

**PIPPIN THE CHRISTMAS PIG**  
Jean Little  
Illustrations: Werner Zimmermann

FOR THE BEST ENGLISH BOOK  
(AGE 8 TO 11)  
**THE SEVERAL LIVES OF ORPHAN JACK**  
Sarah Ellis  
Illustrations: Bruno St-Aubin

FOR THE BEST ENGLISH BOOK  
(AGE 12 AND OLDER)

**TOM FINDER**  
Martine Leavitt

**NORMA FLECK AWARD FOR  
CHILDREN'S NON-FICTION 2004**  
(Canadian Children's Book Centre)

**THE ROAD TO THERE: MAPMAKERS  
AND THEIR STORIES**  
Val Ross

**R. ROSS ANNETT JUVENILE  
FICTION AWARD**  
(Writers Guild of Alberta)

FOR THE BEST CHILDREN'S BOOK BY  
AN ALBERTA AUTHOR

**DOT TO DOT IN THE SKY:  
STORIES OF THE MOON**  
Joan Marie Galat  
Illustrations: Lorna Bennett

**RED CEDAR BOOK AWARD**  
(Young Reader's Choice  
Awards Society of B.C.)

FOR THE FAVOURITE BOOK OF  
BRITISH COLUMBIA SCHOOL CHILDREN

FICTION CATEGORY  
**PARVANA'S JOURNEY**  
Deborah Ellis

NON-FICTION CATEGORY  
**HANA'S SUITCASE: A TRUE STORY**  
Karen Levine

**RED MAPLE AWARD 2005**  
(Ontario Library Association)

FOR THE BEST CANADIAN CHILDREN'S  
BOOK AS CHOSEN BY ONTARIO  
STUDENTS, GRADES 7, 8 AND 9

FICTION  
**AIRBORN**  
Kenneth Oppel

NON-FICTION  
**SCAMS! TEN STORIES THAT EXPLORE  
SOME OF THE MOST OUTRAGEOUS  
SWINDLERS AND TRICKSTERS  
OF ALL TIME**  
Andreas Schroeder

**RUTH AND SYLVIA SCHWARTZ  
CHILDREN'S BOOK AWARDS 2005**  
(Ontario Arts Council and Canadian  
Booksellers Association)

PICTURE BOOK CATEGORY  
**MONKEY BUSINESS**  
Wallace Edwards  
Illustrations: Wallace Edwards

FOR BEST TEXT  
YOUNG ADULT/MIDDLE READER  
CATEGORY  
**AIRBORN**  
Kenneth Oppel

**SASKATCHEWAN BOOK  
AWARDS 2004**

CHILDREN'S LITERATURE  
**FLUX**  
Beth Goobie

**SASKATCHEWAN YOUNG  
READERS' CHOICE WILLOW  
AWARDS**

THE DIAMOND WILLOW AWARD  
(For more experienced readers)

**HAUNTED CANADA:  
TRUE GHOST STORIES**  
Pat Hancock

THE SHINING WILLOW AWARD  
(For beginning readers)

**STANLEY'S PARTY**  
Linda Bailey  
Illustrations: Bill Slaviv

THE SNOW WILLOW AWARD  
(For sophisticated readers)  
**THEORIES OF RELATIVITY**  
Barbara Haworth-Attard

**SHEILA A. EGGOFF  
CHILDREN'S PRIZE**  
(West Coast Book Prize Society)

FOR THE BEST BOOK BY A BRITISH  
COLUMBIA AUTHOR  
**MISS SMITHERS**  
Susan Jubly

**SILVER BIRCH AWARD**  
(Ontario Library Association)

FOR THE BEST CANADIAN CHILDREN'S  
BOOK, AS CHOSEN BY ONTARIO  
STUDENTS, GRADES 4 TO 6

FICTION AWARD  
**RAVEN QUEST**  
Sharon Stewart

NON-FICTION AWARD  
**ASK ME ANYTHING!  
STRANGE BUT TRUE ANSWERS TO  
99 WACKY QUESTIONS**  
Marg Meikle  
Illustrations: Tina Holdcroft

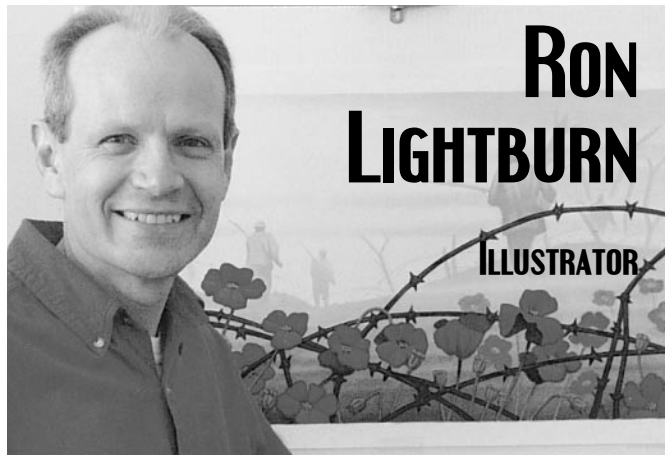
**VICKY METCALF AWARD FOR  
CHILDREN'S LITERATURE 2004**  
(The Writers' Trust of Canada)  
Deborah Ellis

**WHITE PINE AWARD 2005**  
(Ontario Library Association)

FOR THE BEST CANADIAN CHILDREN'S  
BOOK, AS CHOSEN BY ONTARIO  
STUDENTS, GRADE 10  
**MORE THAN YOU CAN CHEW**  
Marnelle Tokio

**YOUNG ADULT CANADIAN  
BOOK AWARD**  
(Canadian Library Association)

FOR BEST BOOK  
**A COMPLICATED KINDNESS**  
Miriam Toews



## BIOGRAPHY

Ron Lightburn was born in Cobourg, Ontario, but moved to West Vancouver at an early age. He spent his youth playing along the shores of the Pacific Ocean. He also loved to draw and produced his own comic books, which he sold to classmates at his elementary school. Later, he studied at the Alberta College of Art in Calgary, then settled in Victoria, where he worked as a commercial illustrator and gallery artist. During this time, he often walked past the offices of Orca Book Publishers on his way to the local art supply store. One day, he decided to stop in to ask about picture books; within a few weeks, he was working on the award-winning *Waiting for the Whales*.

In creating his artwork, Mr. Lightburn starts from a series of rough illustrations or “studies,” before completing his final works in coloured pencil on toned or coloured paper. He uses models, photographs and authentic locations to inspire his pictures and bring them to life. His ability to create realistic images and use imaginative techniques to influence tone and mood resonates with his readers and helps them feel a connection with the characters and story.

In 1997, Mr. Lightburn and his wife Sandra moved to the Annapolis Valley in Nova Scotia. His paintings and drawings can be found in the collection of Library and Archives Canada, and other corporate and private collections across Canada and the United States. Ron Lightburn is the recipient of many major awards. He has illustrated a number of award-winning picture books and has worked on over sixty book covers.

## AWARDS

1992 – Governor General’s Literary Award for Children’s Literature (Illustration)  
*Waiting for the Whales* (1991)

1992 – Amelia Frances Howard-Gibbon Illustrator’s Award  
*Waiting for the Whales* (1991)

1992 – Elizabeth Mrazik-Cleaver Canadian Picture Book Award  
*Waiting for the Whales* (1991)

1995 – Mr. Christie’s Book Award  
*How Smudge Came* (1995)

1996 – Sheila A. Egoff Children’s Book Prize  
*How Smudge Came* (1995)

1999 – Sheila A. Egoff Children’s Literature Prize  
*Driftwood Cove* (1998)

2001 – Canadian Library Association Book of the Year for Children Award  
*Wild Girl and Gran* (2000)

## SELECTIVE BIBLIOGRAPHY

### *Driftwood Cove*

Text by Sandra Lightburn; illustrations by Ron Lightburn  
Toronto: Doubleday Canada, 1998. 31 p.  
ISBN 0385256264

### *A Poppy Is to Remember*

Text by Heather Patterson; illustrations by Ron Lightburn  
Markham, Ont.: North Winds Press, 2004. 30 p.  
ISBN 0439967864  
Available in French under the title *Un coquelicot pour se souvenir* (ISBN 0439967872)

### *I Can’t Sleep!*

Text by Patti Farmer; illustrations by Ron Lightburn  
Victoria, B.C.: Orca Book Publishers, 1992. 22 p.  
ISBN 0920501842

### *Eagle Dreams*

Text by Sheryl McFarlane; illustrations by Ron Lightburn  
Victoria, B.C.: Orca Book Publishers, 1994. 32 p.  
ISBN 1551430169 (bound)  
ISBN 1551430231 (paperback)

### *How Smudge Came*

Text by Nan Gregory; illustrations by Ron Lightburn  
Red Deer, Alta.: Red Deer College Press, 1995. 32 p.  
ISBN 0889951438 (bound)

### *Je suis un comédien*

Text by Lalie Harcourt and Ricki Wortzman; illustrations by Ron Lightburn; adaptation by Margaret Gillespie deGooyer; translation by Johanne Tremblay  
Montréal: Éditions de la Chenelière, 2003. 16 p.  
(Collection Domino)  
ISBN 2765003858  
Available in English under the title *I Am an Actor* (ISBN 077154152X)

### *I Am an Actor*

Text by Lalie Harcourt and Ricki Wortzman; illustrations by Ron Lightburn  
Toronto: Gage Learning, 2003. 16 p.  
(Side by side)  
ISBN 077154152X  
Available in French under the title *Je suis un comédien* (ISBN 2765003858)

### *Un coquelicot pour se souvenir*

Text by Heather Patterson; illustrations by Ron Lightburn;  
translation by Claudine Azoulay  
Markham, Ont.: Éditions Scholastic, 2004. 30 p.  
ISBN 0439967872  
Available in English under the title *A Poppy Is to Remember* (ISBN 0439967864)

### *Wild Girl and Gran*

Text by Nan Gregory; illustrations by Ron Lightburn  
Red Deer, Alta.: Red Deer Press, 2000. 32 p.  
ISBN 0889952213

### *Waiting for the Whales*

Text by Sheryl McFarlane; illustrations by Ron Lightburn  
Victoria, B.C.: Orca Book Publishers, 1993, ©1991. 32 p.  
ISBN 0920501664

## INTERVIEW WITH RON LIGHTBURN

*Excerpts from an interview by Josiane Polidori with Ron Lightburn, illustrator of A Poppy Is to Remember, published by North Winds Press/Scholastic Canada.*

JP: You were born in Cobourg, Ontario. You spent your summers as a child near the sea, lived in British Columbia for several years, and now you live by the Atlantic Ocean in Nova Scotia. Do you feel the environment you live in influences your art?

LIGHTBURN: Yes, and I think it shows in my work. The environment plays a major role in my books *Waiting for the Whales*, *Eagle Dreams*, *Driftwood Cove* and *Wild Girl and Gran*. If I was not an illustrator, I would probably be a landscape or wildlife painter. I feel very connected with nature.

JP: Who are the visual artists and book illustrators who have inspired or influenced your work as a children's book illustrator?

LIGHTBURN: My earliest influence was Alfred Bestall and his illustrations for the Rupert annuals. The *1959 Rupert Annual* is one of the first books I remember, and I still have the copy I received as a Christmas gift. Then I fell head over heels for the lush paintings of Frank Frazetta, in particular his brilliant cover illustrations for reprints of the stories of Edgar Rice Burroughs in the 1960s and 1970s. I still find his imaginative concepts, bravura technique and rich use of chiaroscuro to be very exciting and inspirational. I also revere illustrators from the Golden Age of Illustration such as N.C. Wyeth and Norman Rockwell.

JP: The illustrations in your books are infused with introspective qualities: the characters and environments exude a kind of closeness. How do you give so much depth to your illustrations? How do you create these moods and feelings?

LIGHTBURN: I try to be sensitive to the text. I give a lot of thought to the body language of the characters, and employ a cinematic approach to my compositions and lighting to create the appropriate moods. For example, I might use a close-up view of a character to create a feeling of intimacy, and contrast this with an overhead perspective in the next spread to distance the reader and create a feeling of isolation in the scene. Altering the palette from monochromatic to full colour, moving from a shadowy scene to one in bright sunlight – these are all ways of using contrast to create drama.

JP: How did you do the visual research for an historical topic that spanned several decades, such as for the book *A Poppy Is to Remember*?

LIGHTBURN: I began by taking out almost every book on the two world wars from our local library, in addition to borrowing a number from our local branch of the Legion. My publisher also helped out a great deal by doing research when I could not find what I needed. The challenge was to condense two wars into a short series of images, make it all as accurate as possible without being too intense for younger readers, and do it within a deadline. Mr. Joseph Samson, a Korean War veteran from Kentville, Nova Scotia, posed for two paintings. He is seen with his grandchildren in the background of the cenotaph illustration, and in the second painting, he is again with them as he explains the history and meaning of his medals for the first time. Mr. Samson passed away less than a year later, but I am glad that he was able to share an important part of his life with his grandchildren as a result of taking part in the book.

*For the full interview, see the Library and Archives Canada website at [www.collectionscanada.ca/read-up-on-it](http://www.collectionscanada.ca/read-up-on-it)*

## RELATED WEBSITES

If you would like to learn more about the topics of peace or war, visit these websites:

**Canada's Digital Collections – Canada at War** (bilingual)  
[http://collections.ic.gc.ca/E/SL\\_CanadaAtWar.asp](http://collections.ic.gc.ca/E/SL_CanadaAtWar.asp)  
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**Canadian Military History Gateway** (bilingual)  
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**Canadian War Museum** (bilingual)  
[www.warmuseum.ca/cwm/cwme.asp](http://www.warmuseum.ca/cwm/cwme.asp)  
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**From Colony to Country:  
A Reader's Guide to Canadian Military History** (bilingual)  
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[www.collectionscanada.ca/militaire/index-f.html](http://www.collectionscanada.ca/militaire/index-f.html)

**Newfoundland and The Great War** (in English only)  
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**"We Will Remember"**  
**War Monuments in Canada** (in English only)  
[www.stemnet.nf.ca/monuments](http://www.stemnet.nf.ca/monuments)

**Veterans Affairs Canada** (bilingual)  
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**Over the Top: An Interactive Adventure** (bilingual)  
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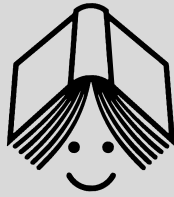
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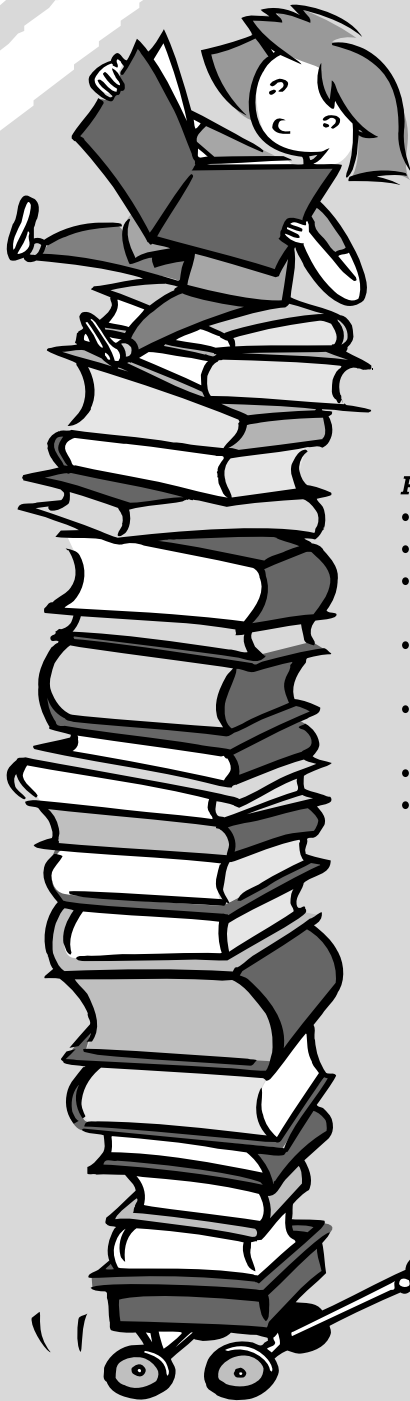
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