



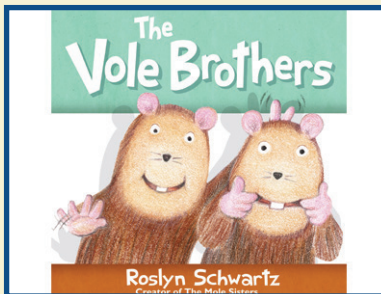
CANADIAN TOY TESTING COUNCIL TOY REPORT 2014 AWARD-WINNING BOOKS

Listed according to age

GREAT BOOKS

Give the gift of reading. When you're giving toys as gifts to children this year, seriously consider giving books too. The Canadian Toy Testing Council (CTTC), the leading authority on toys in Canada, has used its rigorous evaluation process to select Great Books for Children by Canadian creators and publishers.

The books range from picture books to novels to non-fiction or science-based fact books. The diversity of titles shows that there are books available to appeal to every child.



The Vole Brothers

Written and illustrated by Roslyn Schwartz. Owl Kids, 2011. ISBN 978-1-926818-83-2.
Ages 2-5

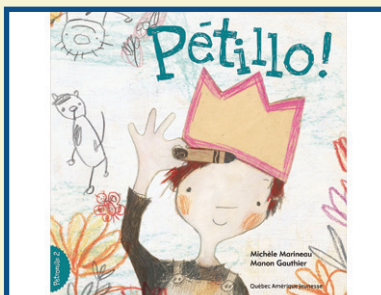
With playful illustrations and comic book layout, this humorous book about hungry voles and their quest for food had a broad appeal to CTTC testers. It is filled with short dialogues that are easy to understand and fun to repeat. Children love the facial expressions on the voles and other animal characters. Parents like that it a great book for encouraging literacy development and word recognition.



La Magie de L'Hiver: Petit gnouf

Written by Dominique Demers, illustrated by Gabrielle Grimard. Dominique et compagnie, 2012. ISBN 978-2-89686-174-3.
Ages 3+

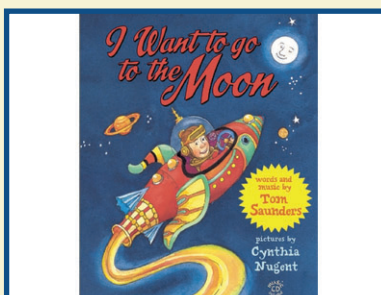
This beautifully illustrated story transports children to a magical world where little pixie creatures work to rekindle the joy of winter. Children enjoy the elegant pictures, enchanting story, and cute characters. Parents appreciate a text that expands their children's vocabulary and thought it a perfect book for the winter holidays.



Pétronille: Pétillo

Written by Michèle Marineau, illustrated by Manon Gauthier. Québec Amérique jeunesse, 2013. ISBN 978-2-7644-1307-4.
Ages 3+

This whimsical story about the power of imagination is appealing to children and the childlike illustrations are engagingly familiar. Children love the fanciful story and the narrative sparks conversation about real vs. imaginary. Families appreciate the nontraditional text layout and engaging presentation.



I Want to Go to the Moon

Words and music by Tom Saunders, illustrated by Cynthia Nugent. Simply Read Books, 2011. ISBN 978-1-897476-56-7.
Ages 3+

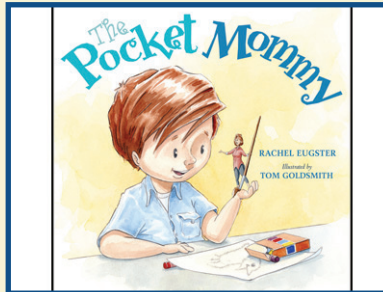
Never give up on your dreams. This book teaches children about space exploration and the value of perseverance. Kids are inspired by the story of Neil Armstrong and love the CD that comes with the book. They also like the catchy, rhyming text, while parents like that the book prompt discussion about history.



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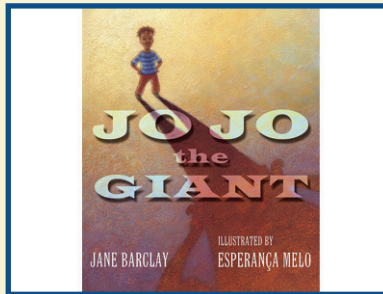


The Pocket Mommy

Written by Rachel Eugster, illustrated by Tom Goldsmith. Tundra Books, 2013.
ISBN 978-1-77049-300-1.

Ages 3+

When a pocket-sized mommy joins him in kindergarten, Sammy actually discovers his independence. Children can relate to the story about missing mommy and appreciate the detailed, humorous illustrations. Parents find this a helpful story for children starting school or a new activity.

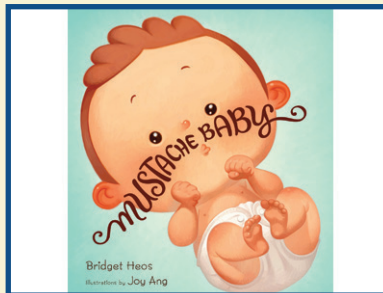


JoJo the Giant

Written by Jane Barclay, illustrated by Esperanca Melo. Tundra Books, 2012.
ISBN: 978-0-88776-976-4

Ages 4+

This uplifting story about determination and compassion can inspire children to have faith in themselves and look beyond their shortcomings. Children enjoy the expressive, colourful illustrations, the text's appealing language, and the surprise twist at the end.

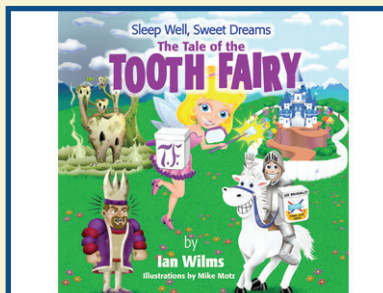


Mustache Baby

By Bridget Heos, illustrations by Joy Ang. Clarion Books, Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, 2013.
ISBN: 978-0-547-77357-5.

Ages 4-8

What will become of Baby Billy, born with a moustache? This delightful book is filled with tongue-in-cheek humour that appeals to young and old audiences alike. Kids enjoy the bright, cartoonish, humorous illustrations that put a twist on the narrative, while parents like that the text helps teach children about multiple meanings for words and phrases.

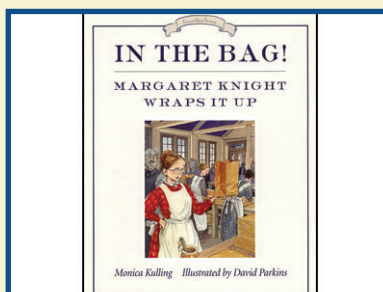


The Tale of the Tooth Fairy

Written by Ian Wilms, illustrated by Mike Motz. Brushalot, 2011.
ISBN 978-0-9876753-0-9.

Ages 5+

Learn how Sir Brush-a-lot and his Knights of Floss work to save the Pearly White City against the attacks of the icky Prince Plaque. This easy-to-read story has a straightforward message about dental hygiene that's told in a humorous, engaging way. Kids like the bright, cartoonish illustrations while parents hope the story encourages more tooth brushing!



In the Bag! Margaret Knight Wraps It Up

Written by Monica Kulling, illustrated by David Parkins. Tundra Books, 2011.
ISBN 978-1-770492394.

Ages 5-7

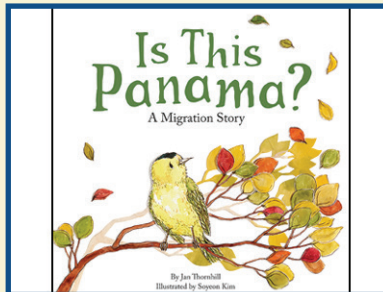
This story about the inventor Margaret Knight is a tale of perseverance and ingenuity. Children, especially young girls, are inspired by a young woman who did things others women could not do, who understood things others said women could not know. Readers also appreciated the detailed illustrations and accessible story, while parents liked the book's educational quality.



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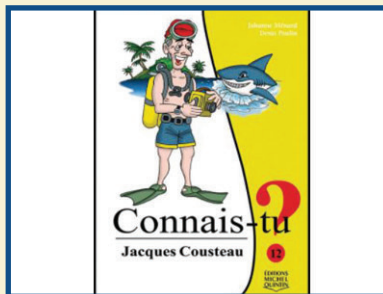


Is This Panama? A Migration Story

Written by: Jan Thornhill, illustrated by: Soyeon Kim. Owlkids Books, 2013.
ISBN 978-1-926973-88-3.

Ages 5-8

Sammy the warbler migrates from the Arctic Circle to Panama and meets other interesting migratory animals and birds along the way. Children enjoy this beautifully illustrated story with a simple yet engaging narrative. Parents appreciate the book's educational qualities and the map that helps children understand the distance Sammy travels.



Connais-Tu? Jacques Cousteau (#12)

Written by Johanne Ménard, illustrated by Denis Poulin. Éditions Michel Quintin, 2013.
ISBN 978-2-89435-601-2.

Ages 7+

Learn about explorer and innovator Jacques Cousteau in this accessible book with comic-style illustrations. Readers like that the book, and especially the illustrations, is quite funny and that it is short enough to read in one sitting. Parents like that the book engages children while educating them about a historical figure.

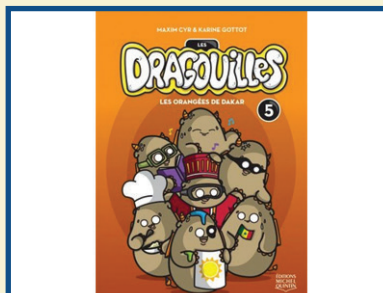


Magalie : Joyeuse Halloween (#8)

Written by Yvan DeMuy, illustrated by Claude Thivierge. Éditions Michel Quintin, 2012.
ISBN 978-2-89435-605-0.

Ages 7+

Magalie is scared of Hallowe'en, but in this cute story, she confronts her fear and finds out that things aren't quite so grim after all. Readers like the accessible text, engaging story and the black and white illustrations that correspond well with the text. French Canadian families appreciate the authentic language.

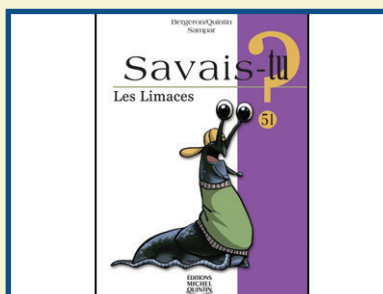


Les Dragouilles: Les Orangées De Dakar

Written by Karine Gottot, illustrated by Maxim Cyr. Éditions Michel Quintin, 2011.
ISBN 978-2-89435-512-1.

Ages 7+

Discover the Senegalese city of Dakar in this colourful book that has information about everything from arts and crafts to climate to recipes. Readers find the comics-style illustrations enhance the text and provide some humorous jokes. They also like that this book can be picked up and read for a page or two, then set down.



Savais-Tu?: Les Limaces

Written by Michel Quintin, Alain M. Bergeron, Sampar, illustrated by Sampar.
Éditions Michel Quintin, 2012.
ISBN 978-2-89435-557-2.

Ages 7+

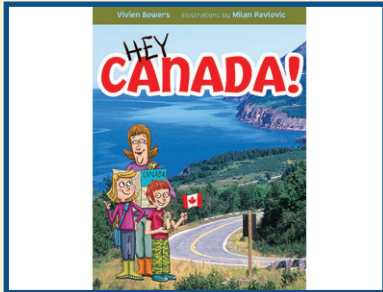
Did you know there are more than 100,000 types of slugs in the world? This little book is filled with interesting facts about slugs and snails, augmented by funny, cartoon-like pictures. Readers liked the light-hearted but informative approach, and that the book is short enough to read in one sitting.



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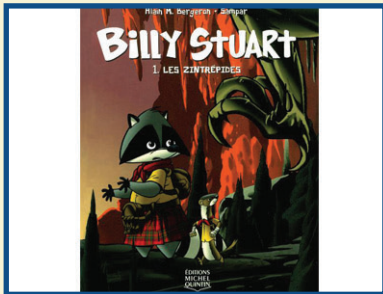


Hey Canada!

Written by Vivien Bowers, illustrated by Milan Pavlovic. Tundra Books, 2012.
ISBN 978-1-77049-255-4.

Ages 7-10

Explore Canada from coast to coast to coast with this colourfully illustrated book that mixes photographs, comic strips, narrative and social media. Readers liked the humorous approach to information about Canada's diverse geography, history, nature, etc. A great resource to understand this country better in an entertaining and accessible way.

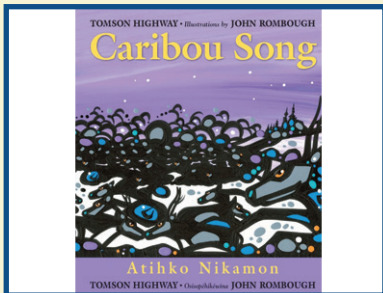


Billy Stuart (Series)

Written by Alain M. Bergeron, illustrated by Sampar. Éditions Michel Quintin, 2011.
ISBN 978-2-89435-531-2.

Ages 8+

Billy Stuart is a young raccoon who embarks on adventures with his small group of animal friends. Children are quickly drawn into the stories of this 5-book series and stay hooked right to the end. They find the characters appealing, the games interesting, and the text informative and humorous. Expressive, comics-style illustrations add to their enjoyment.

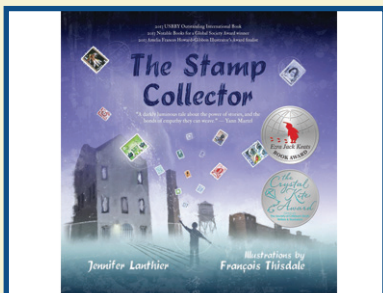


Caribou Song

Written by Tomson Highway, illustrated by John Rombough. Fifth House Publishers, 2013.
ISBN 978-1-89725-261-1.

Ages 8+

This beautiful book is about two Cree brothers who attract thousands of caribou with their song and dance. Readers are drawn to the unique illustrations and appreciate the opportunity to learn more about First Nations Peoples. Text is presented in both English and Cree, which adds an element of authenticity and sophistication that families appreciate.

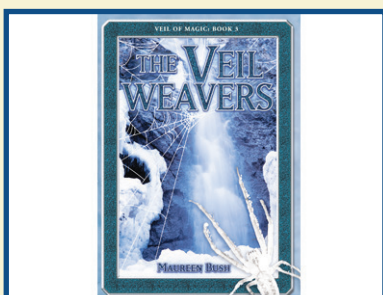


The Stamp Collector

Written by Jennifer Lanthier, illustrated by François Thisdale. Fitzhenry & Whiteside, 2013.
ISBN 978-1-55455-218-4.

Ages 8+

This powerful and moving story teaches children about freedom of expression and the power of stories. The subject matter is mature, but the story of two Chinese men on opposite sides of prison bars is presented in an accessible way such that children are challenged to think differently about themselves and others. Illustrations are beautifully rendered and complement the story well. Parents welcome the opportunity to have discussions with children about rights and freedoms.



Veil of Magic Book 3: The Veil Weavers

Written by Maureen Bush. Coteau Books, 2012.
ISBN 978-1-55050-482-8.

Ages 10+

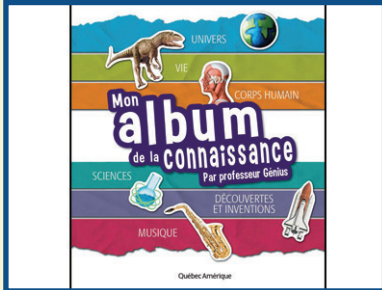
Magic, suspense and adventure. This fantasy book quickly engages young readers and holds them throughout. Though it is the third in a series, readers do not have to have read the previous books to be able to follow and enjoy this one. Readers especially enjoy the fanciful creatures and brave characters.



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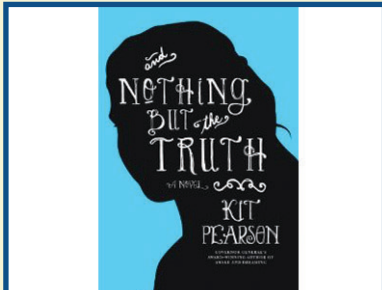


Mon album de la connaissance du Professeur Génius

Written by Collectif. Les Éditions Québec Amérique, 2012.
ISBN PDF 978-2-76441-161-2, ISBN ePub 978-2-76441-173-5.

Ages 10+

Packed with information, this book is perfect for anyone with a curious mind. Illustrations nicely support the many subjects, such as discoveries and inventions, science, the human body, and music. Readers appreciate that information is presented in short, engaging pieces of text. It would be a great tool to have for help with homework and school projects.



And Nothing but the Truth

Written by Kit Pearson. HarperCollins Publishers Ltd, 2013.
ISBN 978-1-55050-482-8.

Ages 12+

Set in the 1930s, this is a story about pregnancy outside of wedlock, secrecy, and family bonds. Teens can easily relate to the central character. They become engaged with the story of how she tries to fit in at a new school and how she gets caught up in the secret of her sister's pregnancy. Parents appreciate that the story teaches readers about Canadian society from almost a century ago and that it provides opportunities to talk about sensitive subjects like teen pregnancy.



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