

Dear Book Lover,

This catalogue is a celebration of the authors and illustrators it has been a privilege to publish. Many of these talents will be familiar to you; others will be a new surprise. All of the books included are works of literary art, and we hope you will peruse these pages with interest and delight as you discover what exactly fostered the creative processes represented here. Welcome to the talented authors, illustrators, and editors of Fifth House Publishers, Red Deer Press, and Fitzhenry & Whiteside.



Sharon Fitzhenry
President & CEO



●●●● Jamie Bastedo

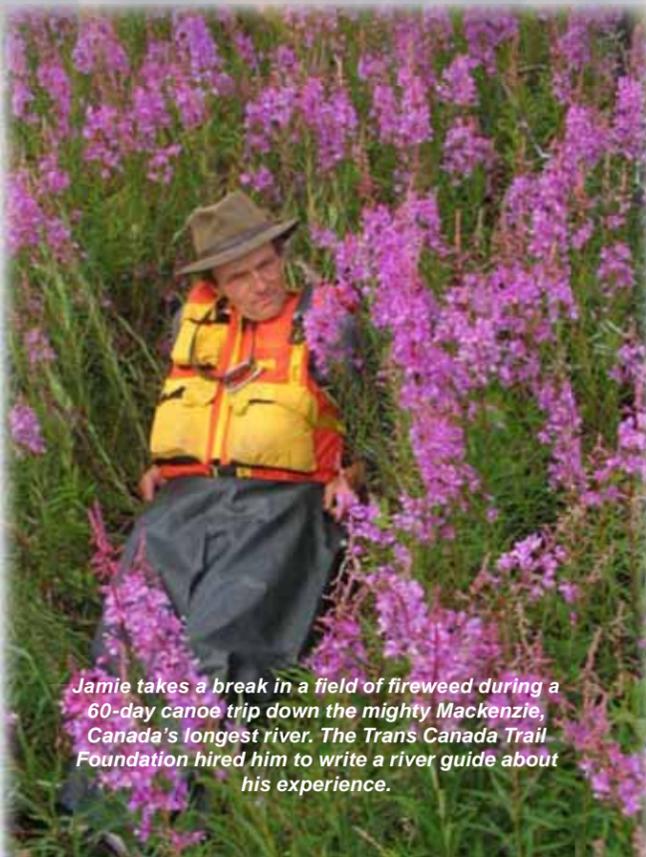
www.jamiebastedo.com ✓ Yellowknife, NT

Jamie's love for wilderness is reflected in his books. *Tracking Triple Seven* is the story of Benji, a city-slicker kid who accidentally joins a team of grizzly bear biologists in the Arctic. "I partly modelled Benji after urban kids I've seen who have lost their inborn connection with nature," Jamie says. "By thrusting San Francisco-born Benji into the biggest wilderness on Earth—the Arctic tundra—and watching him grow, I'm hoping to rekindle that sense of natural wonder in this kind of reader."

Other characters were not so easy for Jamie to create. This was the case with young Ashley Anowiak, the protagonist of *On Thin Ice*. "My own 16-year-old daughter was my most ruthless editor," Jamie admits. "She combed an early manuscript of the book for any sins I may have committed on how Ashley might speak, act, think, dress, etc!" But his many visits to schools of aboriginal kids, combined with 25 years of working and living up north, gave Jamie a good feel for the kinds of challenges Ashley might face and how she would react to them.

Jamie admits that he simply cannot live without wilderness. Residing in a snug backwoods cabin in Northern Canada, he loves to hike up the mountains with his family and take in the northern lights. He is also an eco-tourist guide, and enjoys tourists' reactions to the majesty of the northern wilderness. "On countless tours through many years, I have watched the northern landscape work its magic on people from all over the world," he says. "It's fun to watch them peel off their civilized skins for a while, slow down and take the time to befriend the land and each other."

Jamie runs an environmental consulting company called Cygnus, and hopes to make people aware of some major environmental issues. "The most misunderstood or relatively unknown environmental issue today is called 'destruction by insignificant increments,'" Jamie explains. "We make small changes to natural spaces that individually may seem relatively harmless or controllable but, collectively, can result in the unravelling of entire ecosystems." In the future, Jamie hopes to continue his mission to get his message out and "take science to the streets." His other goals include giving as much to his family, his community and the world as he can. "I believe in the adage that giving is its own reward," he says.



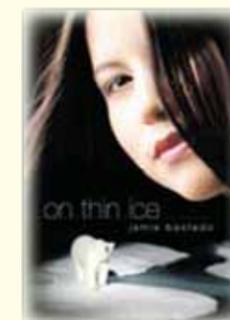
Jamie takes a break in a field of fireweed during a 60-day canoe trip down the mighty Mackenzie, Canada's longest river. The Trans Canada Trail Foundation hired him to write a river guide about his experience.



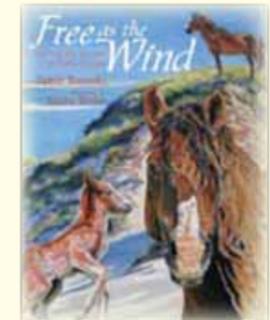
A radio journalist with CBC North, Jamie broadcasts from a huge community freezer carved out of the permafrost 9 metres below the streets of Tuktoyaktuk on the Arctic Ocean. His passion for this unique frozen catacomb inspired the gripping ice-house scene in *On Thin Ice*.



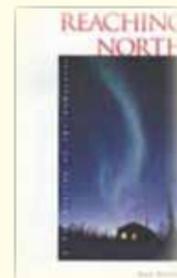
9780889952386, pb
World ex. KR
Grade 7+, YA Novel, Ecology Issues, Adventure, Nature
Manitoba Library Association Best Book, CCBC Our Choice starred selection



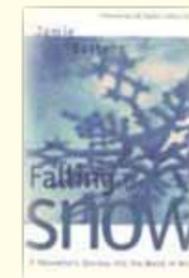
9780889953376, pb
World
Grade 7+, YA Novel, Coming of Age, Ecology Issues, Adventure, Polar Bears



9780889953505, hc
World
Picture Book, Ages 5+, Animal Story (Horses), Ecology, Habitat, Based on a True Story



9780889951709, pb
World
High School/Adult, Non-Fiction, Ecology, Habitat, Sub Arctic Wilderness



9780889952652, pb
World
High School/Adult, Non-Fiction, Science, Ecology
Alberta Book Award shortlist



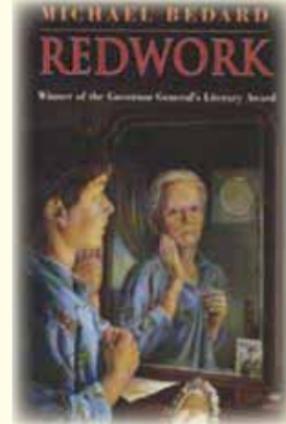
9780889951914, pb
World
High School/Adult, Non-Fiction, Exploring the Taiga Shield, Ecology, Ancient Geology, Habitat



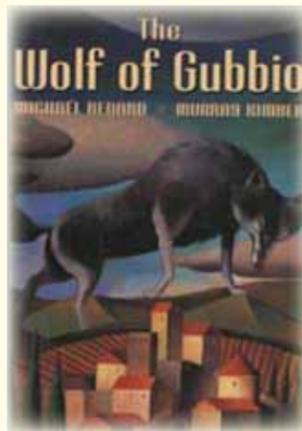
978189555486, hc
9780773758407, pb
978189555509, mm
CA Eng.
Ages 12+, Mystery, Magic



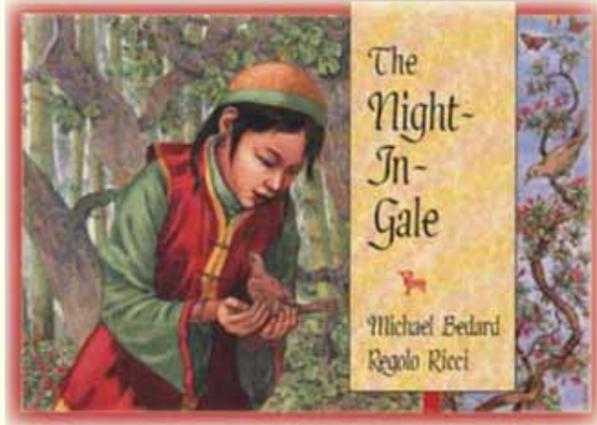
9780773758889, pb
World
Ages 12+, Mystery, Magic



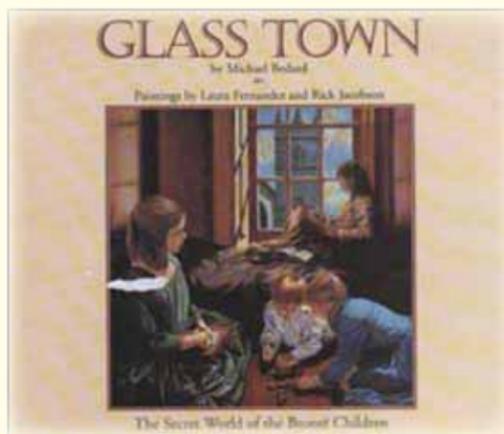
9780773733329, pb
World
Ages 12+, Mystery
Governor General's Award
for Children's Literature, CLA
Book of the Year Award for
Children, IODE Violet Downey
Book Award, National Chapter



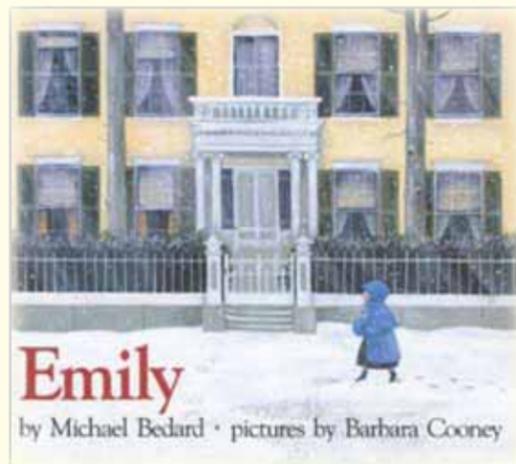
9780773732506, hc
World ex. DK
Picture Book, Legend
Governor General's Award for
Children's Book Illustration
shortlist



9780773756991, pb
9780773757004, cass
9780773756953, bk + cass
World Eng. ex US
Picture Book, Legend
IODE Book Award for Children's Literature



9780773729971, hc
World ex. US
Picture Book, Bronte Children



9780773730403, hc
CA only
Picture Book, Historical Fiction, Emily Dickinson,
Friendship

Michael Bedard

✓ Toronto, ON

Michael Bedard is in love with words. He loves the sound and shape of them, the way they make forms and patterns. Working in a basement room in his house, which feels a bit like a womb, Michael compares writing a book to bearing a baby. A book needs to “form in quiet and in secrecy.” My aim is to “shelter the book, to nourish it, to allow it to open in its own way and in its own time.”

As he works on a particular piece, Michael adds related images to a bristol board hanging on the wall above the desk. He explains, “As the work goes on, the board fills up, and the images on it become a sort of reflection of, and pathway into, the book.” Michael writes first drafts longhand and types later drafts on a typewriter. He does not use a computer. “When I work on the computer I feel as though I’m flying over the landscape of the book rather than walking in it. In both ways, you get to the end, but the record of the journey is completely different.” Michael has also learned from experience not to discuss a work in progress. “I don’t even talk about it with my wife, who is my closest confidante. I learned long ago that if you talk about a piece while it is in process, you endanger it. Part of the vital energy that surrounds the work is dissipated.”

Michael has always had an interest in poets’ lives and works. His picture book *Emily*, the story of a young girl who meets the poet Emily Dickinson, was Michael’s means of “paying homage to the hidden life of a remarkable poet.” His current research and reading also revolve around poetry, including interviews with poets about the process and art of writing poetry.

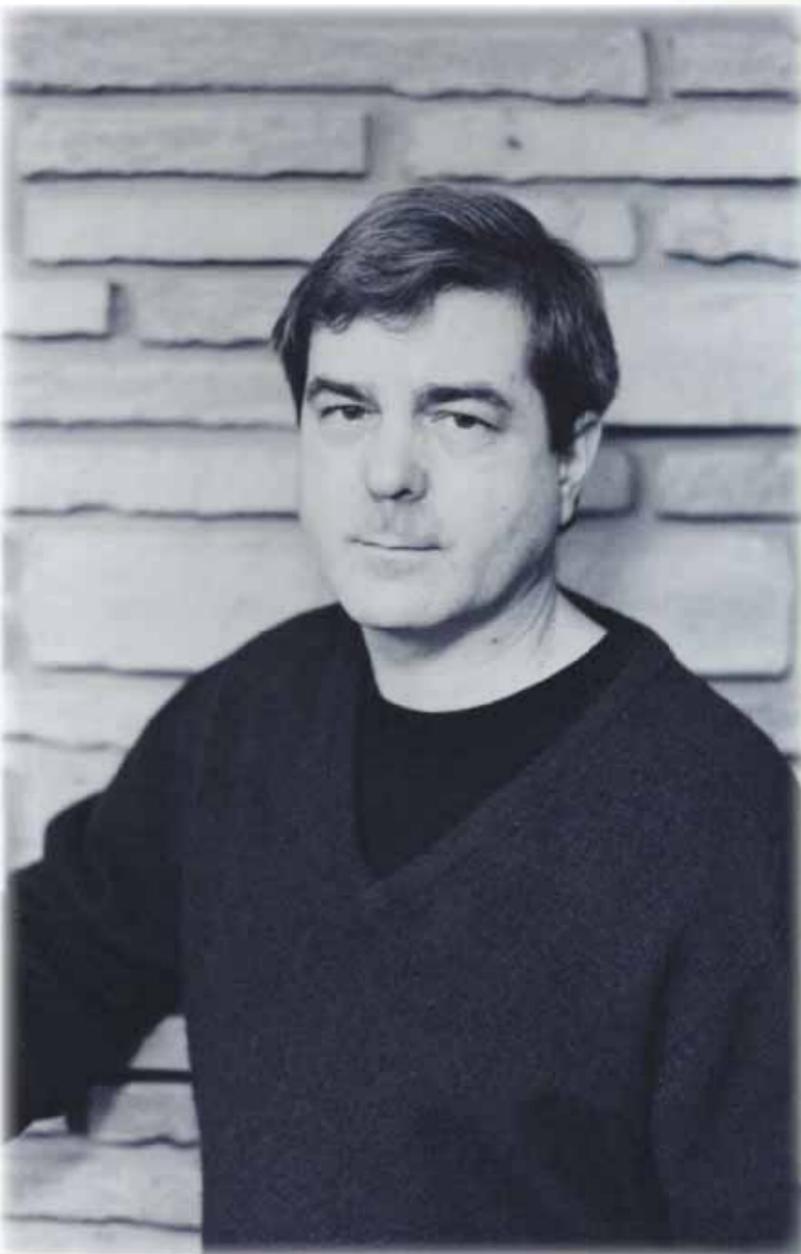
When Michael is not working, he enjoys cooking, going to the opera and to basketball games. He also likes to spend time with family. “I hope my family would say that I’m steady and dependable, and devoted to them and to my work. And—that I’m a pretty good cook! They would like to add, that I’m a wild and crazy guy.” He would also like to think that family and others would remember him as “someone who walked gently on this earth and who gave his life to a craft he loved.”



“Many years ago, when I first began writing, I wrote poetry. I’ve always been drawn to the life and work of various poets. Writing *Emily* was a way of paying homage to the hidden life of a remarkable poet.”

William Bell

www.orillia.org/williambell ✓ Orillia, ON



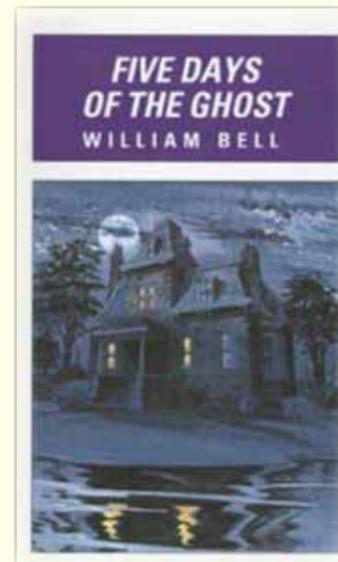
William Bell is an award-winning author of more than a dozen books for young adults. He admits he was not much of a reader as a child. “I began to read novels...when I was in grade 6 or 7,” he says. “My favourite author at that time was Jim Kjelgaard, who wrote books about dogs.”

William spent time as an English teacher, including two years in China. He taught at both the Harbin University of Science and Technology and the Foreign Affairs College in Beijing.

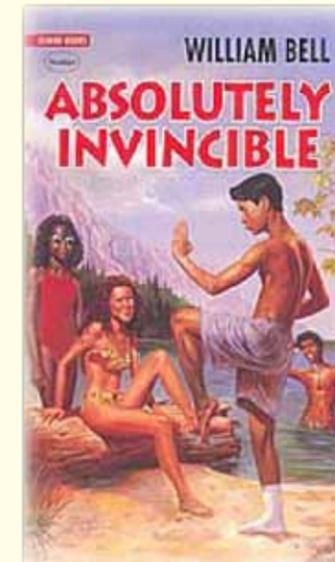
A creative drive turned William to writing. “I think all creative people are pushed or driven by the desire or need to put ideas into the form they’re most comfortable with—music, marble, pastels, or words. In my case, I write about things that interest me and that I care deeply about.” William enjoys writing, but admits that he gets to meet quite a few interesting people in his line of work, too. “Most things about the writing life are positive.”

In *Crabbe*, one of William's most successful novels, Franklin Crabbe is an unhappy semi-alcoholic. “Crabbe is rebellious, troubled, idealistic and, at times, a little cranky,” William says. “An easy person of all ages to relate to. He is also, despite any flaws he may have, honest and basically a good person. His voice is straightforward, frank and direct.”

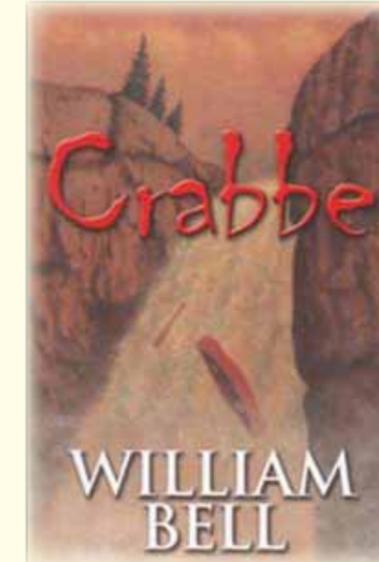
William Bell's young adult novels have been translated into nine languages and have won a number of awards, including the Manitoba Readers' Choice Award, the Mr. Christie's Award, the Ruth Schwartz Award and the Canadian Librarians' Association Award. He lives in Orillia, Ontario, with author Ting-xing Ye.



9780773673687, mm
World ex. DE, DK, CN, SE, film
Ages 10+, Native, Mystery
Manitoba Young Readers' Choice Award



9780773674110, mm
World
Ages 12+, Relationships,
Disabilities, Overcoming Adversity



9781550050516, pb
9780773674837, mm
World ex. FrC, NL, DK
Ages 12+, Coming of Age,
Adventure, Health Issues
(Alcoholism)

“I had published a number of novels before I began to think of myself as a writer. It’s a good life. I meet quite a few interesting people, and most things about the writing life are positive.”



●●●● Pierre Berton

July 20, 1920 – November 30, 2004 ✓ www.pierreberton.com ✓ Toronto, ON

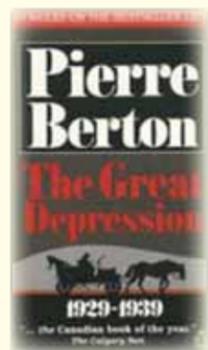
Pierre Berton, well-known and well-loved Canadian author, journalist, and media personality, hailed from Yukon, where his father had moved during the 1898 Klondike Gold Rush. The house in which he grew up in Whitehorse, Berton House, is now a writer's retreat. During his career, Berton wrote fifty books for adults and twenty-two for children, popularizing Canadian history and culture and reflecting on his life and times. With more than thirty literary awards and a dozen honorary degrees to his credit, Berton was a Companion of the Order of Canada. Pierre Berton died in 2004.

Berton's ability to infuse history and its characters with the excitement, personality, and immediacy of contemporary events has always appealed strongly to young readers. Fifth House has been pleased and proud to present Pierre Berton's History for Young Canadians, a series of four omnibuses collecting Berton's historical works for young adults. The omnibuses cover the settling of the Canadian west in *Canada Moves West*, the exploration of the Canadian arctic in *Exploring the Frozen North*, the often-neglected but incredibly important War of 1812 in *Battles of the War of 1812*, and, finally, that gold-crazy period of northern history in *The Great Klondike Gold Rush*. Celebrated Canadian historian Charlotte Gray characterizes Berton's unique talent well in her foreword to *Battles of the War of 1812*:

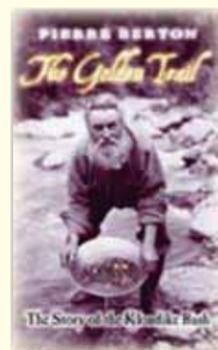
I met Pierre Berton only a couple of times, but in each case I was instantly aware that he was someone who gave himself heart and soul to whatever project he was

engaged in. On one occasion, we were both being interviewed on CBC Radio about how to get Canadians, particularly young adults, fired up about our history. I remember him leaning toward the microphone, clenching his fists as though ready for a brawl, and insisting, "Forget dates. You don't need a string of dates. You need to tell 'em what happened—who won, who lost, and why it mattered!" I realize that is exactly what he did. Berton's thrilling blow-by-blow descriptions are grounded in his sheer enthusiasm for getting in the middle of the fight...I can almost see Berton's tall, lean, white-haired figure, waving his musket in the air and shouting, "C'mon, boys, follow me!"

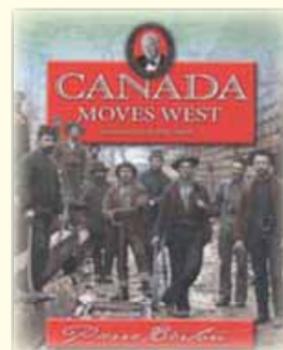
—bio courtesy of Fifth House Publishers



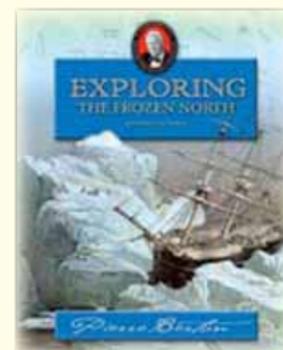
9780920079140, mm
World
Ages 12+, Non-Fiction, Canadian History, Life During the Great Depression



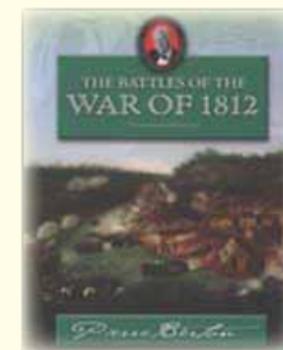
9781894856041, pb
CA only
Ages 11+, Non-Fiction, Canadian History, Klondike Gold Rush of 1898



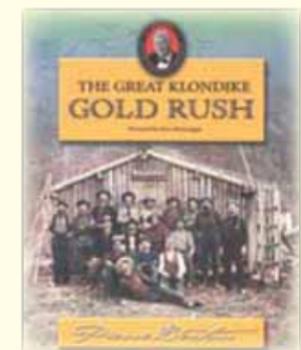
9781894856744, pb
World
Ages 12+, Non-Fiction, Canadian History, Omnibus, 5 Book Collection, How the Canadian West was Won



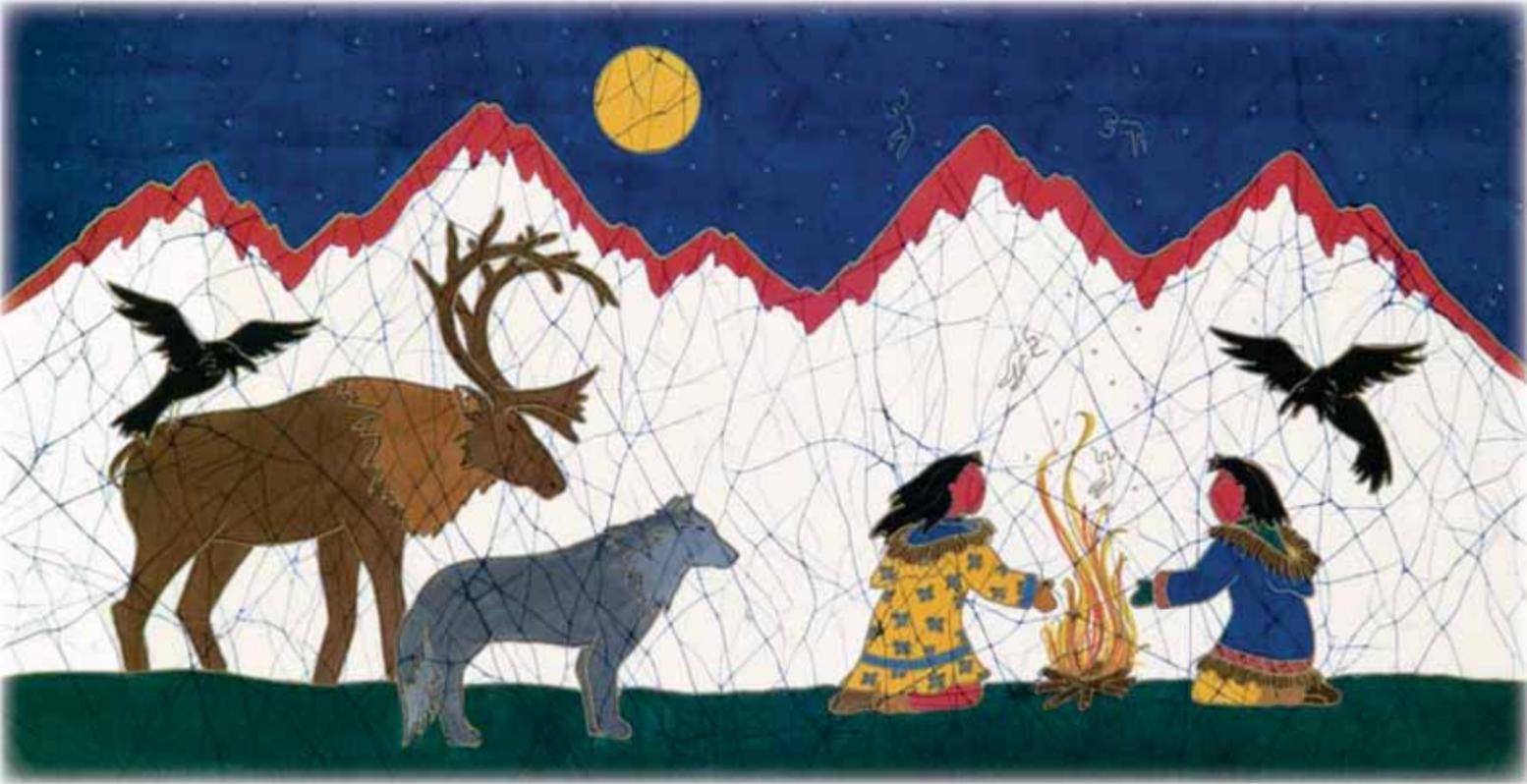
9781894856935, pb
World
Ages 12+, Non-Fiction, Canadian History, Omnibus, 4 Book Collection, Exploring & Mapping the Arctic



978187252017, pb
World
Ages 12+, Non-Fiction, Canadian History, Omnibus, 7 Book Collection, History & Characters of the War of 1812



978, pb
World
Ages 12+, Non-Fiction, Canadian History, Omnibus, 6 Book Collection, Gold Rush of 1897



●●●●Lynn Blaikie

www.lynnblaikie.com ✓ Whitehorse, YT

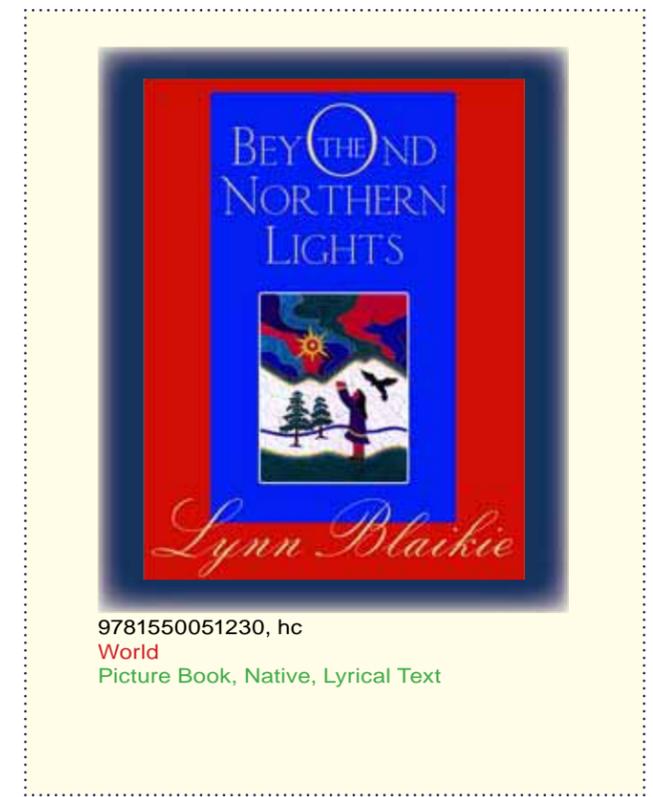


Lynn Blaikie does not know the direction her art will take when she starts. “My work comes from my gut,” she says. Lynn finds inspiration in several J.W. Waterhouse posters purchased years ago by her mother from the Royal Ontario Museum. “I can look at the work and transport myself to another time.”

When Lynn moved to Whitehorse, the town had two traffic lights. Since then, it has added a Wal-Mart and a Starbucks. Lynn makes her home just out of town on several acres that include a barn, greenhouse, a chicken-less chicken coop and her three-room studio. Lynn started to develop her unique style of batik with new methods and dyes she found in Hawaii. After eight years of working as a child care director and artist, Lynn moved into a full-time art career. She describes her love of the batik medium: “It is a tactile art form that allows me to reach many stages of discovery before the piece is even finished. Although I dabble in watercolour and acrylic painting, nothing allows me to really explore a process as much as batik does.”

Lynn starts with a piece of cotton stretched across a wooden frame. After sketching an image on the cloth, she then “paints” the dyes on with brushes. Heat and light reactive, the dye soaks into the cloth rather than sitting on the top. The true colours of the dye are not visible until they are “pulled up” by the heat from an iron. Lynn then uses a Japanese water colour brush to cover the surface with several layers of melted beeswax and paraffin. The cloth is frozen and dried overnight. Lynn bends the frozen cloth until the wax cracks and scrubs dye into the cracks. After she does this three times, she melts the wax and works on details.

When Lynn is not at work in her studio, she can be found in her greenhouse and garden. She also enjoys outdoor activities like fishing, boating and camping. In the future, Lynn would like to write fiction, but is satisfied for now to give young children “beautiful dreams as they fall asleep thinking of flying off into the stars on the back of a raven.”



9781550051230, hc
World
Picture Book, Native, Lyrical Text

David Bouchard

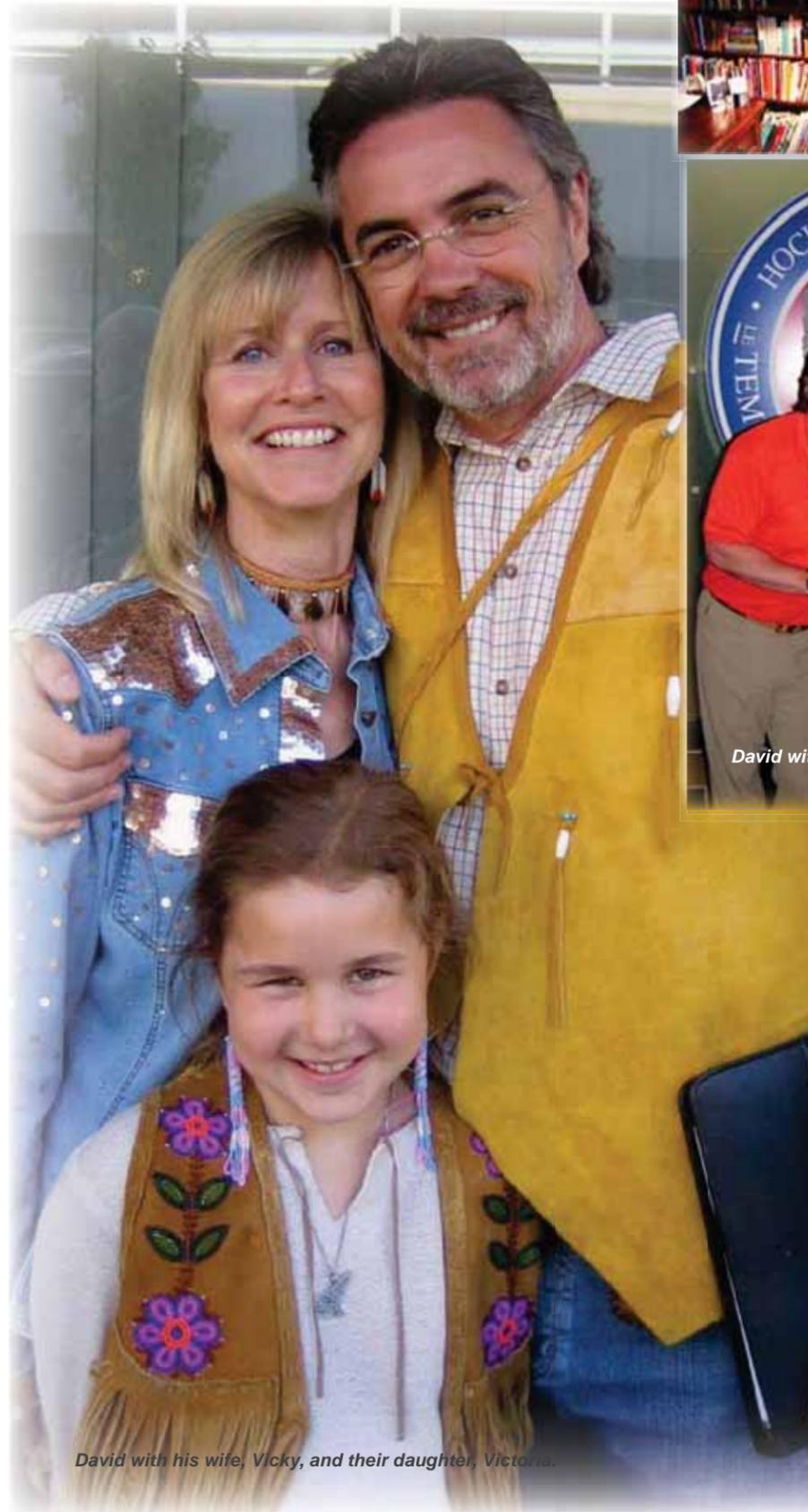
www.davidbouchard.com ✓ Victoria, BC

A writer, poet, father, former school principal, traveller, musician and one-time candidate for Parliament, David Bouchard has certainly had a full life.

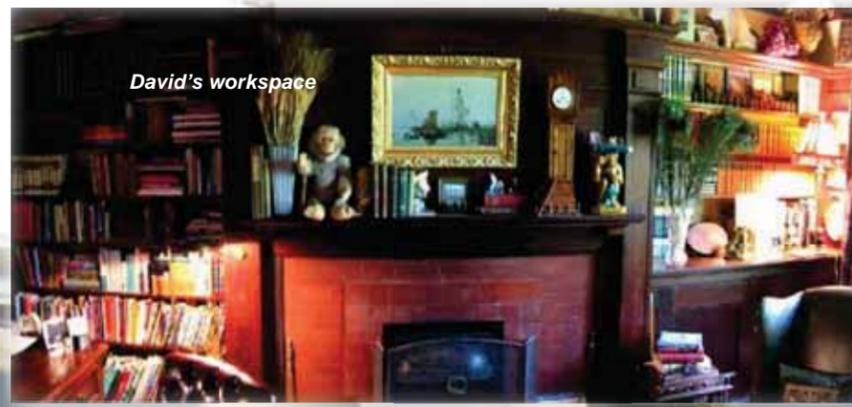
A Métis, David grew up knowing nothing of his roots. But through the process of writing, David has learned more about his Métis heritage. "Our grandmothers and grandfathers were made to feel less than those around them," David says of his ancestors. "So that their children might have a chance in Canadian society, they lied or purposefully hid our bloodlines. The irony in this is that it is now incumbent upon us, this new Métis generation, to prove our ancestors liars in order to regain our heritage." Many of his children's books centre around aboriginal issues and the journey of discovery.

David believes strongly in the positive power of reading. "I speak to educators, parents and students about the importance of reading," he says. "I work to inspire educators and parents to share the most valuable gift we can give our youth, the gift of reading." His love of reading and writing fills his daily life. He writes wherever he happens to be at the time. It is not uncommon for him to stray from the cozy library of his 100-year-old stone house to go sit in a Tim Horton's and write, where, he claims, he produces some of his best work.

About the art of writing itself, David says: "I think of a good novel or a captivating series as a bouquet of roses. I don't write bouquets. I write single flowers. My hope is that my reader will take a deep breath after reading one of my books, breathe out and with a gentle smile on their face, say, 'nice.'"



David with his wife, Vicky, and their daughter, Victoria.



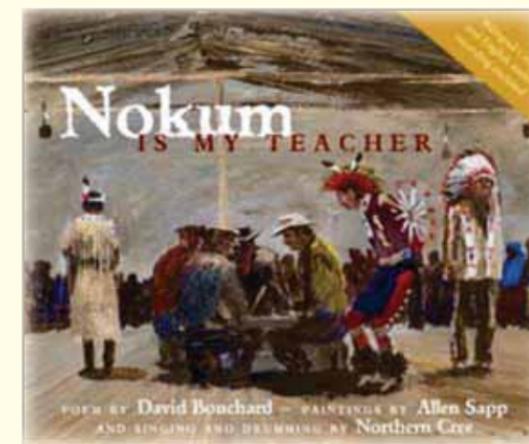
David's workspace



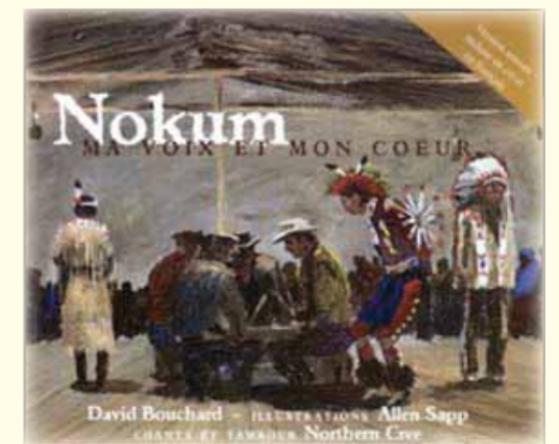
David (right) plays an honour song with a musician in Udaipur, India. His daughter Victoria sits at his feet.



David with Hockey Hall of Fame's Johnny Bower and the Stanley Cup



9780889953673, hc
World
Picture Book, Ages 10+, Native, Family Values, Generational Story



9780889953833, hc
World
Picture Book, Ages 10+, Native, Family Values, Generational Story

●●●●Beverley Brenna

www.beverleybrenna.com ✓ Saskatoon, SK

Beverley Brenna has been nominated for the Manitoba Young Readers' Choice Award, CLA Young Adult Book Award, OLA White Pine Award and the Snow Willow Award.

Q Do you enjoy writing poetry now as much as when you were a child?

A I think that my writing roots are truly in poetry, and I continue to do a great deal of poetry writing. Sometimes it's because a particular idea fits well into that form, but sometimes it's merely a matter of convenience. When you have three children you want to keep up with, a busy job, and an acreage lifestyle that definitely involves extra time in terms of maintenance, sometimes all one can manage at the end of the day is a few scrawled lines.

Q Which of your literary characters is the most personal to you?

A I think Taylor in *Wild Orchid* was an intensely personal creation, because I tried to use my own first-person voice from teenage memories, and then added the characters and plot of the story, as well as her actual autistic traits, on top of that. I think in many ways Taylor is not unlike a lot of teen girls-tied to family, yet seeking independence; yearning for an intimate relationship with a significant other, yet too immature to always make good choices; dreaming about future goals.

Q Why did you write about Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder in *The Moon Children*?

A I have learned that the invisible disabilities linked to an FASD profile can be some of the most damaging, and that children like Billy—who appear bright and intelligent and use lots of good expressive language—run the risk of being labelled lazy and irritating, because their skills may not extend to auditory memory or translate into activities such as reading and writing.

Q What do you do as a special education consultant?

A I currently work out of a number of different schools to support teaching teams and families who are planning the best programs possible for children with low-incidence diagnoses, such as autism, Down's Syndrome, cerebral palsy, and

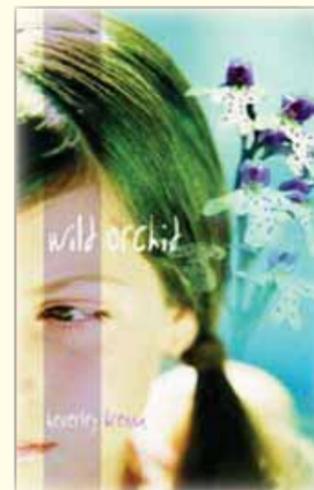
various forms of Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders, among others. I am currently collecting fiction for children and young people in which characters with special needs have central roles. I think literature has an important role to play in presenting truth, not simply popular culture.

Q What is one attitude about life that you want your children to learn from you?

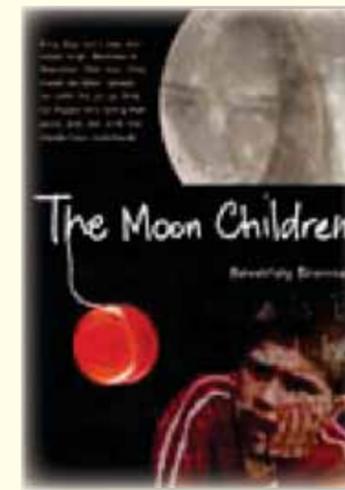
A I think a positive attitude about one's own goals and dreams is very important, and I hope they carry that into their future: that no matter where you are in the running—first, second, or even last—as long as you are working towards your dreams the race is



A photo of the sunset at Waskesiu Lake, one of Beverley's favourite places on earth



9780889953307, pb
World
Ages 14+, Teen Fiction, Coming of Age, Autism, Relationships
OLA White Pine Award shortlist, CLA Young Adult Book of the Year Award shortlist, Manitoba Young Readers' Choice Award shortlist, Willow Award shortlist, CCBC Our Choice starred selection, New York Public Library Books for the Teen Age, McNally Robinson top five bestselling books in Saskatchewan in 2006



9780889953789, pb
World
Ages 9-13, Middle Grade Fiction, Health Issues (FASD)

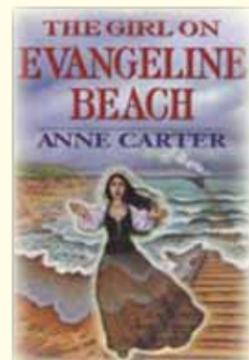
●●●●Anne Carter

www.annecarter.com ✓ Toronto, ON

Anne Carter is convinced that there's no substitute for travel. But "good writing comes close," she says. Anne left home at the age of 17 and travelled to Israel, England, France and the United States. Five years later, she moved into a career teaching ESL and French in Cree communities in Northern Quebec.

Anne caught the writing bug when she was raising her four children. Now she writes anywhere she can. She finds that the process is different every time. She explains, "A few years ago I threw out plotting in advance. I believed in the 'mystery' of the process. Discovering the novel as I went. For my current project I tried writing some key scenes, knowing my ending and where I was writing to, a skeletal structure to guide the process." Anne cites the helpfulness of good librarians who provide tips and leads for research. Inspiration for Anne's books originate from family, friends and interviews. Among her achievements, Anne is especially proud of winning the CLA award, calling it an "awesome" experience. To those who aspire to write, Anne's advice is straightforward: "Read a lot. Write a lot. Submit a lot."

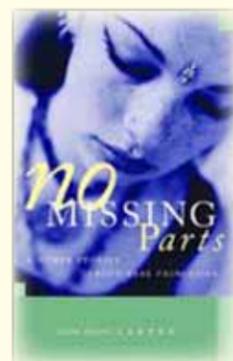
When Anne is not writing, she likes to read. She recommends *Carver: A Life in Poems*. If she weren't a writer, Anne would pursue another form of the arts. "I'd love to be a musician. Have my own band."



9780773761391, pb

World

Ages 12+, Historical Fiction, Bully Issues, Time Travel

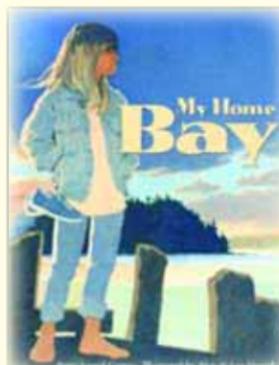


9780889952539, pb

World

Ages 12+, Short Stories, Historical & Present Day, Women's Roles

ForeWord Magazine Book of the Year Award shortlist



9780889952843, hc

World

Picture Book, Relocation Alberta Children's Book of the Year shortlist, Alberta Book Illustration of the Year shortlist, Canadian Book Review Annual Editor's Choice: Children's Picture Book, CCBC Our Choice selection





●●●●Sean Cassidy

✓ Orangeville, ON

As a child, Sean Cassidy dreamed of living in the Yukon in a log cabin with his dog. His other dream was to draw and paint. "I was amazed at the skill of fine artists, animators and illustrators," he says. "What they did was magic."

After receiving a B.Ed. and a B.A., Sean taught just about everything from English and Math to Astronomy, History, Geography and Visual Arts. He had always loved art and illustrating, but it wasn't until the birth of his daughter that he started writing stories. Sean recently left teaching in order to devote more time to writing and illustrating children's books.

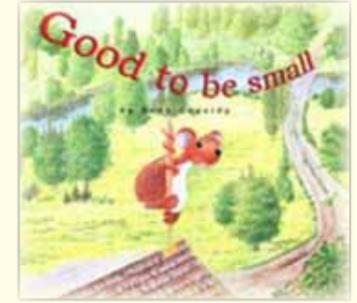
Now Sean teaches drawing workshops for schools and libraries. He cherishes the challenge of the workshops: "I love seeing the delight in the eyes of the children and adults when they discover that they

can easily create their own unique characters with some of the simple rules that I teach to them."

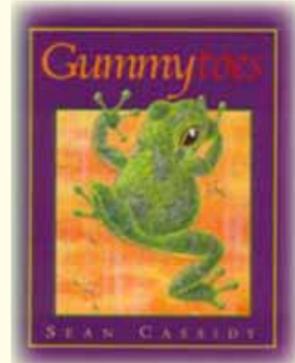
Sean would like to see children's books get more recognition in the literary world. "We bestow all the big honours and awards on the writers of adult literature. But the most important and essential area of literature for any culture is children's lit. And the most important area of that is lit for the very young—picture books. The brightest kids in Grades 1, 2 and 3 are the children who can read best. Those at the top of the class in Grade 3 are still at the top of the class in Grade 12. If, through my writing and illustrating, I can get children excited about books, then I've done something good and I've helped make the world a little better."



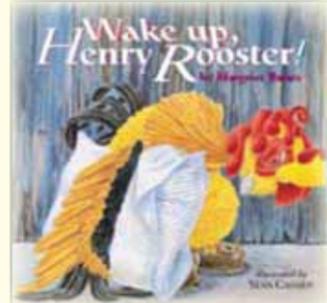
9781550416770, pb
World ex. KR
Picture Book, Fanciful
Ruth Schwartz Book Award, Mr. Christie's Book Award Gold Seal, OLA Blue Spruce Award finalist, CNIB Tiny Torgi Print Braille Award finalist



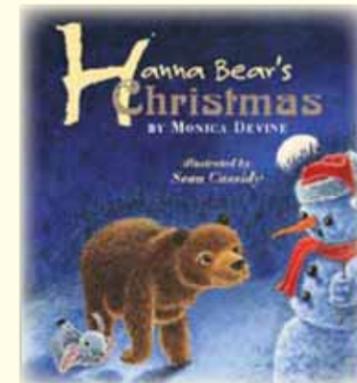
9781550416992, pb
World ex. KR
Picture Book, Self-Esteem
Mr. Christie's Book Award Silver Seal



9781550418248, hc
9781550418262, pb
World
Picture Book, Science & Nature
OLA Blue Spruce Award shortlist, Shining Willow Award shortlist



9781550419528, hc
World ex. KR
Picture Book, Humour
OLA Blue Spruce Award shortlist



9781550415858, hc
World
Picture Book, Friendship



Illustration from Hanna Bear's Christmas

●●●●Veronika Charles

✓ Toronto, ON

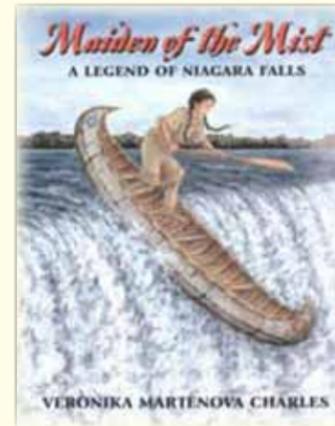


Veronika Martenova Charles is an award-winning author and illustrator. Before settling in Toronto and becoming a full-time writer, Veronika was a pop recording artist in Eastern Europe. “I was on a concert tour in Cuba and on the way back the Cuban plane stopped to refuel in Gander, Newfoundland. On the spur of the moment I decided not to get back on the plane and to stay in Canada. Fate was on my side. A year later, the group I had been singing with was returning from another concert tour and they perished in a plane disaster.”

Veronika went on to study at Ryerson University, the Ontario College of Art and Design, and completed graduate studies in Folklore at York University. She now writes and illustrates children’s books, and describes holding a finished book as a “scary” experience. “I do the text, illustrations and also the book design myself and make a mock-up of the book ahead of time. I know exactly what the book should look like in its finished form. But in the printing process, the book goes through many hands. So there is always a chance something in the book may not turn out the way I envisioned. And it does.”

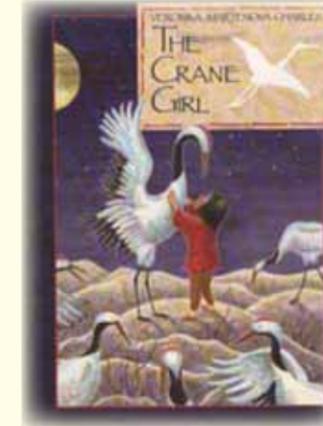
Every project Veronika takes on is unique. “Each book presents an illustrating challenge because each story is different and demands a different look,” Veronika explains. “*Stretch, Swallow & Stare* is a book with a dark story. I thought painting it on dark surfaces that would somehow shine through the painted illustration on top would express that.” Veronika cites Expressionist painter Paul Klee as one of her favourite artists.

Veronika Charles loves her kids, working in her office at home, and being able to make a living working on things she is passionate about.



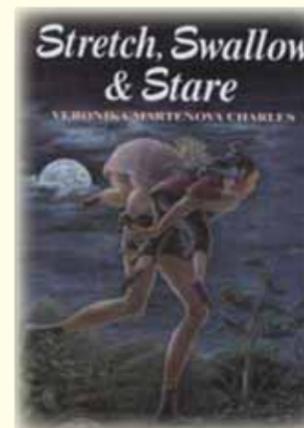
9780773732971, hc
9780773762077, pb

World
Picture Book, Native, Legend
Storytelling World Award Honor
Title, CCBC Our Choice selection



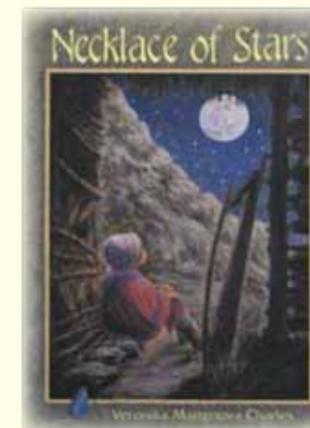
9780773757189, pb

World
Picture Book, Legend
Amelia Frances Howard-Gibbon
Award for Illustration shortlist,
American Children’s Books of the
Year starred selection



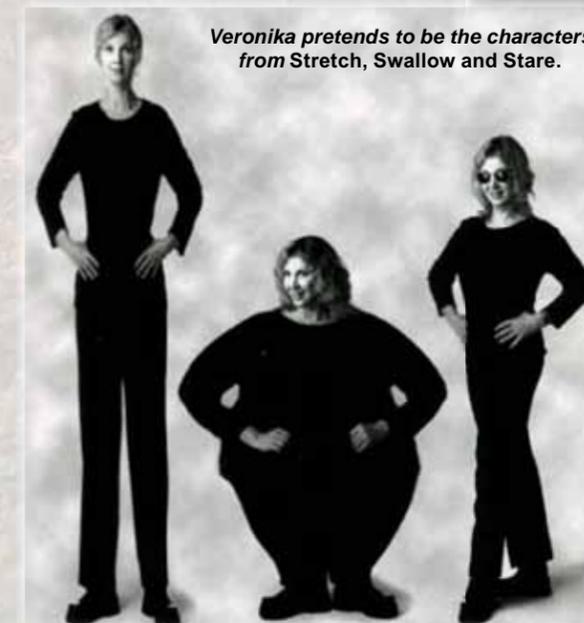
9780773730984, hc

World ex. KR
Picture Book, Legend
Atlanta Journal-Constitution Best
Picture Books



9780773729674, hc

World
Picture Book, Czech Fairy Tale
CCBC Our Choice selection



Veronika pretends to be the characters from *Stretch, Swallow and Stare*.

●●●●Lyn Cook

✓ Westport, ON



For 60 years, Lyn Cook has captured the hearts and imaginations of children and adults all over the world with her stories of small-town people and their relationships.

Q What do you love the most about writing?

A Living other people's lives. That's what we all do when we write and read fiction.

Q Who were your favourite authors growing up? Who are your favourite authors now?

A Growing up, I loved *The Wide, Wide World* by Elizabeth Wetherell and *The Water-Babies* by Charles Kingsley. There was no school library in the little schoolhouse I attended, so the only books I read were books given at Christmas and birthdays. Since my parents were British, I received a lot of abridged Dickens, so I read that too. As a teenager I read a lot more historical fiction, like *Master Skylark* by John Bennett. Today I read a lot of travel books, and I also love Jane Urquhart and P.D. James.

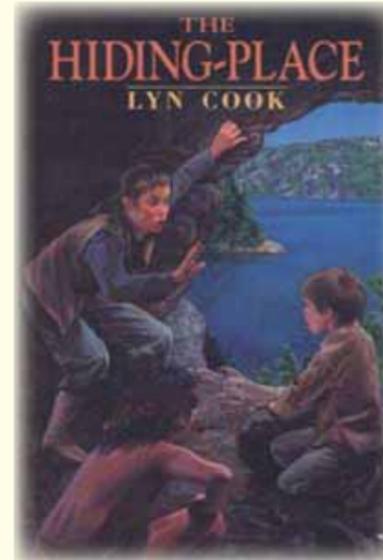
Q How did your writing career start and develop?

A It began because I fell in love with Sudbury. When I moved there, the town had a very small library, and I became the first professional librarian.

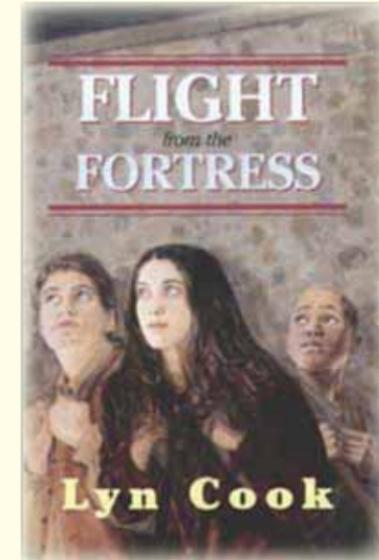
I developed the first story hour for children. Then a local radio station caught wind of it and asked me to host a one-hour show called "A Doorway in Fairyland." The show catered to newly immigrated children, and I told fairy stories and tales of immigration that they could relate to. Eventually, listeners wrote to the CBC informing them of this program, and before long the CBC was asking me to host the show coast to coast, which I did for ten years. I was really able to develop my storytelling abilities through this medium. I also taught drama for ten years, and that helped me in my writing because I am able to see the situations in my books as scenes from plays, which makes writing a lot easier.

Q Almost 60 years after its publication, *The Bells on Finland Street* is still in print. Did you expect so much success for the book?

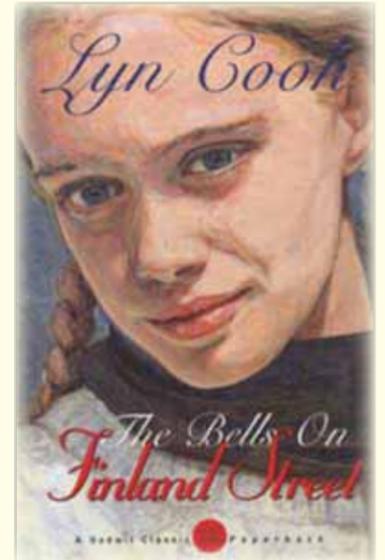
A No, absolutely not. I was astonished at its success. I guess this particular book touched a lot of people's hearts. Jane Urquhart said of *Bells* that she suddenly found a story about real people in real places. I am very happy that I have written a story that others can relate to. As for it still being in print, I am very pleased about that too. The bells are still ringing!



9780773758384, pb
CA only
Middle Grade Fiction, Ages 8-12,
Adventure, Relationships



9781550417920, pb
World
Middle Grade Fiction, Ages 10+,
Historical Fiction, 1757 French/English
War, Adventure
CCBC Our Choice selection

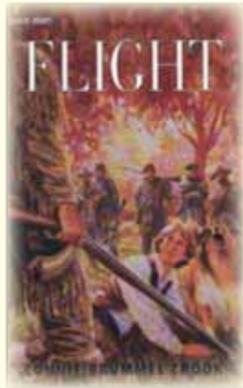


9781550417944, pb
World
Middle Grade Fiction, Ages 10+,
Historical, Family

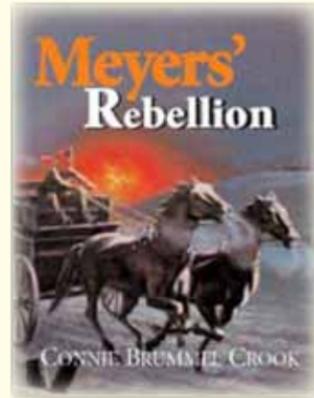


●●●●Connie Brummel Crook

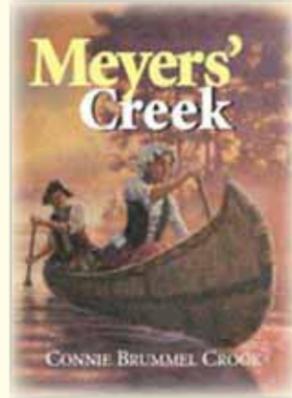
www.conniebrummelcrook.ca ✓ Peterborough, ON



9780773674127, mm
World
Grade 6+, United Empire Loyalist, Adventure

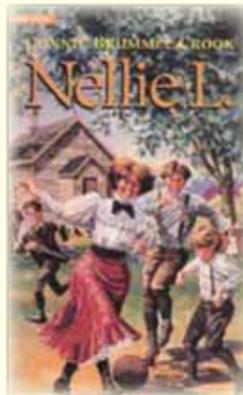


9781550419436, hc
World
Ages 12+, Historical Fiction

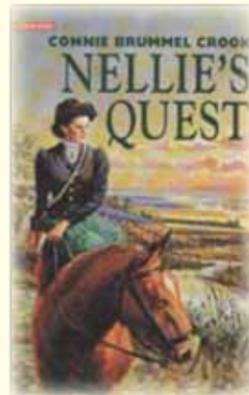


9781550419559, pb
9780773674363, mm
World
Ages 12+, Historical Fiction, Pioneer Adventure Story

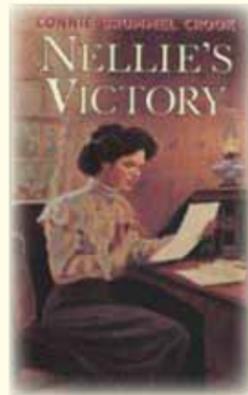
Stories about Nellie McClung



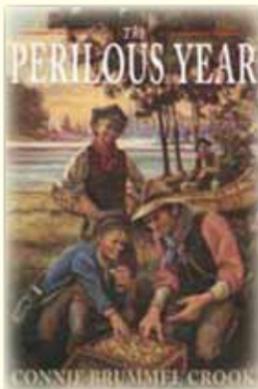
9780773674226, mm
World
Ages 12+, Early Story of Nellie McClung, Pioneer, Historical Fiction, Women's Rights
Geoffrey Bilson Award for Historical Fiction shortlist, CCBC Our Choice selection



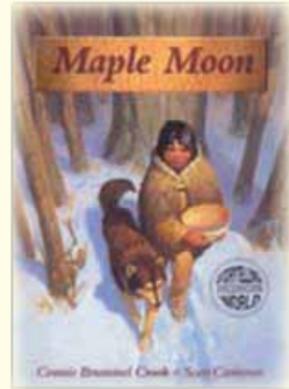
9780773674691, mm
World
Ages 12+, Pioneer, Historical Fiction, Women's Rights
Geoffrey Bilson Award for Historical Fiction shortlist, CCBC Our Choice selection



9780773674813, mm
World
Ages 12+, Pioneer, Historical Fiction, Women's Rights
IODE Violet Downey Book Award shortlist



9781550418163, hc
9781550418187, pb
World
Grade 5+, Historical Fiction, Pioneer Life, Adventure
World Guild Novel Award, CCBC Our Choice selection



9780773760981, pb
World ex. FR
Picture Book, Native Legend, Discovering Maple Syrup, Nature
Storytelling World Award Honor Book, World Guild Book Award, CCBC Our Choice



9780773762060, pb
World
Grade 5+, Historical Fiction, Pioneer Life, Adventure, Adversity
OLA Silver Birch Award, IODE Violet Downey Book Award shortlist, World Guild Novel Award, CCBC Our Choice selection



Since her first book, *Flight*, appeared in 1991, Connie Brummel Crook has had nine novels and three picture books published. She writes historical fiction in the hopes of bringing to life North American heritage for students in the classroom. “As a teacher, some days, my students would ask me to tell them stories instead of teaching the regular class work—just for a break—and so I did occasionally,” she says. Connie taught English in Ontario’s public secondary schools for 30 years. Having appreciative students has a positive effect on the teacher as well. “A teacher needs to relate to her students and believe in their ability to achieve.”

Connie reflects on the process of writing historical fiction: “Starting the actual writing for a new project is the hardest part. Sometimes, the research is so

interesting that I spend too long on it before I start writing the story...but once I have immersed myself in the time period, I like writing the first draft best because I pretend I am the main character and love living through those exciting experiences.” On July 15, 2000, Connie was one of the honourable inductees into Peterborough’s Pathway of Fame. “I was completely overwhelmed and delighted to be recognized in this way,” she says. “I’ve always loved reading and now also enjoy writing books.”

A little-known fact about Connie Brummel Crook: Her first two books were written by hand because she did not know how to type. These books were transcribed from her handwriting by her daughters. Connie has since learned how to type.



●●●● Julie Czerneda

www.czerneda.com ✓ Orillia, ON

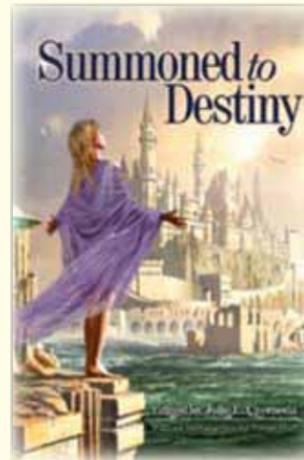
Julie Czerneda wants to set the record straight. Science fiction is not irrelevant. Science fiction is not just for kids or for the scientifically minded. “Science fiction is great storytelling, examining relevant possibilities based on what we know and are today.” For Julie—writer, editor, mother and former animal communication researcher—telling a compelling story about a scientific issue is an art.

Julie grew up on air force bases in Ontario, Prince Edward and Nova Scotia before her family settled in Mississauga, Ontario. She pursued her love for biology at the universities of Waterloo, Saskatoon and Queen’s (Kingston). Julie eventually settled in Orillia, Ontario, with husband Roger and children Jennifer and Scott. Now Julie is frequently on the road as a presenter and speaker, and enjoys travelling. She has used interesting places like Dawson City, Yukon, in her fictional settings.

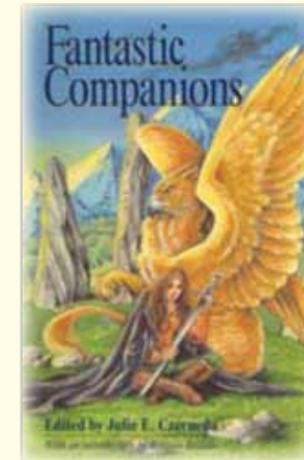
Julie is both a writer and an editor. “When I’m actively writing, my husband may have to remind me to eat,

and the time available in a day never seems enough. I’ll often go back to writing in the evening. When I’m editing or doing promotional work, I’m more on the clock, and don’t work at night. It’s a different part of the brain.” Creating an engaging story is always Julie’s goal. “I’d like readers to finish reading, and want to pause in the world I created...My science fiction is always about ideas and consequences. I pose the solutions or resolutions I think are reasonable. I want to affect how people think.”

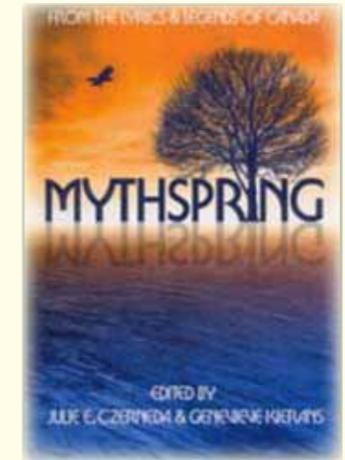
Julie likes the science fiction community. “SF folks are smart, curious and kind. They are open-minded and encouraging.” Whether she is sharing her enthusiasm for new findings on how animals communicate with light and sound or exploring biological concepts through her character of Esen (of the Web Shifters series), Julie is also open to every possibility. “We live at the edge of wilderness, which also affects what a typical day may be. If the weather is perfect for a canoe trip or a flight or a hike in the forest, I’m gone.”



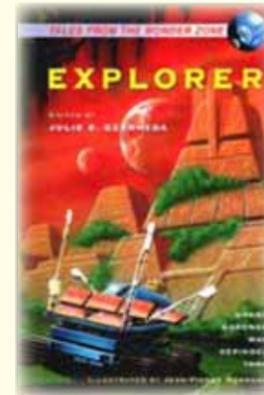
9781550418613, pb
World
Grade 7+, Science Fiction, Anthology of Original Fantasy Stories Based on the Theme of Self Discovery



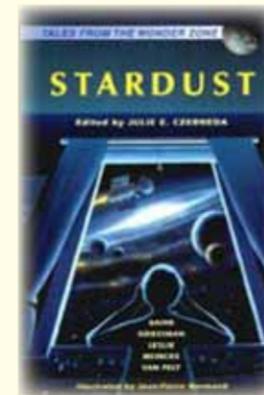
9781550418637, pb
World
Grade 7+, Science Fiction, 19 Original Stories Chosen to Illustrate Anthropomorphism in Fantasy
ForeWord Magazine Book of the Year Award for Science Fiction, Silver Medal



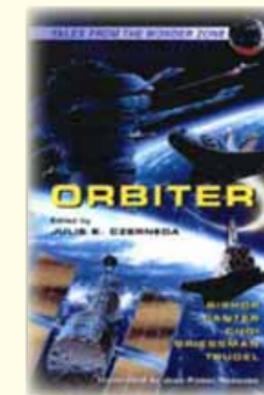
9780889953406, pb
World
Grade 7+, Science Fiction, Legends, Canadian Short Stories



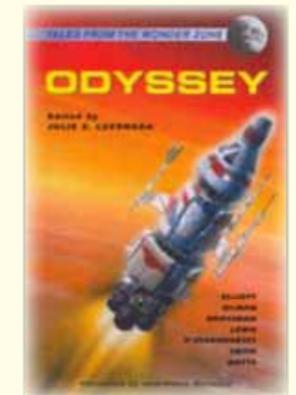
9781552440223, pb
World
Grade 5+, Science Fiction, Stories Based on Weather, Space, Exploration, Colonization, Sound, Human Physiology
Prix Aurora Award for Best Work in English



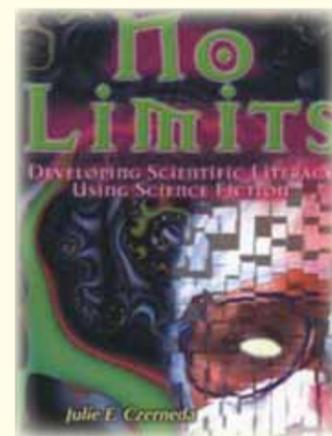
9781552440186, pb
World
Grade 4+, Science Fiction, Stories Based on Force, Properties of Matter, Light, Energy, Energy Transformation
Prix Aurora Award for Best Work in English



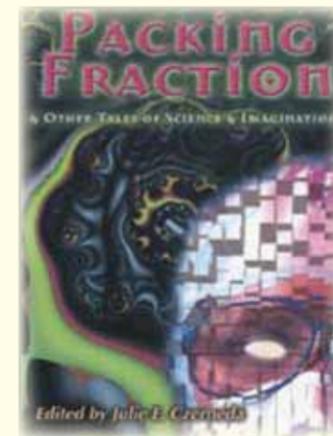
9781552440209, pb
World
Grade 5+, Science Fiction, Stories Based on Space Exploration, Momentum/Gravity, Flight, Electricity
Prix Aurora Award for Best Work in English



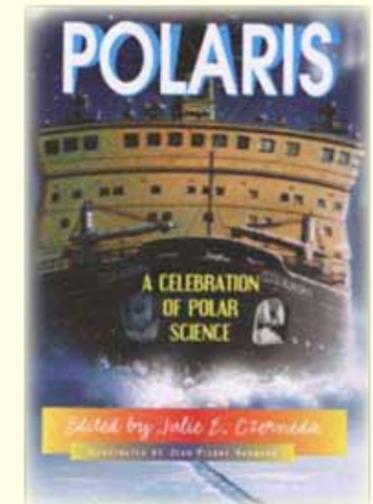
9781552440803, pb
World
Grade 5+, Science Fiction, Stories Based on the Earth’s Crust, Living Systems, Fluids, Machines & Mechanical Efficiency



9781895579949, pb
World
Teachers’ Guide, Scientific Literacy Using Science Fiction



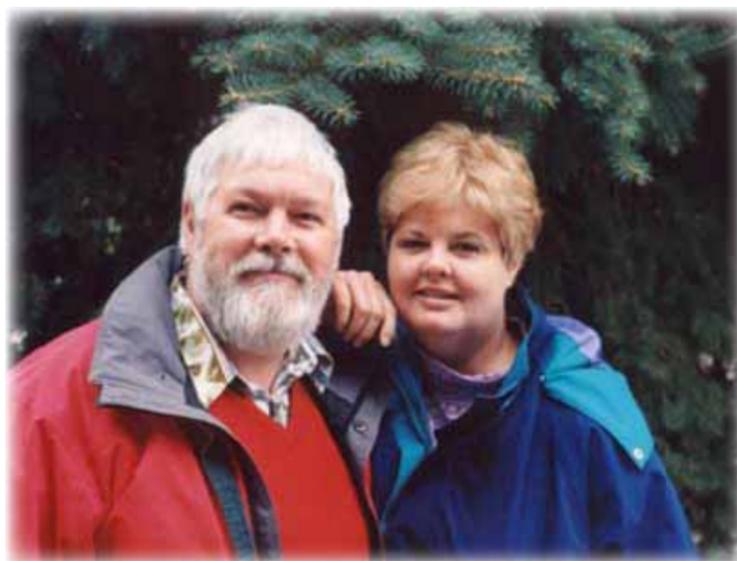
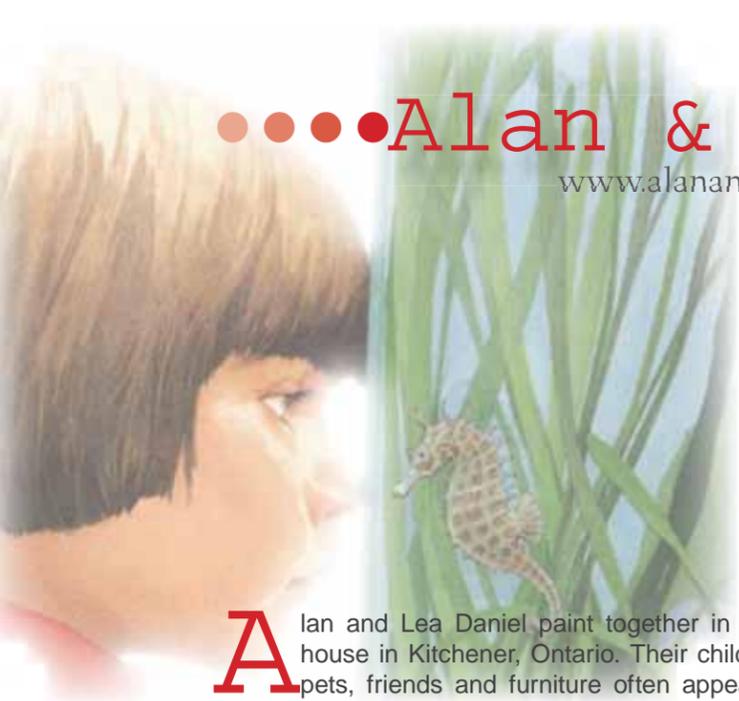
9781895579895, pb
World
Science Fiction, Short Stories
Prix Aurora Award for Best Short Fiction, Prix Aurora Award for Artistic Achievement



9780889953727, pb
World
Ages 10+, Science Fiction, Short Stories, Polar Habitat, Polar Science

Alan & Lea Daniel

www.alanandleadaniel.com ✓ Kitchener, ON



Alan and Lea Daniel paint together in their house in Kitchener, Ontario. Their children, pets, friends and furniture often appear in their illustrations.

Q What are the advantages and disadvantages of working together?

A We can bounce ideas around, which is great. If one of us gets sick or has to be away, it's good to have a partner who can keep the work moving. One of the few disadvantages is that, since we share deadlines, we both get stressed out at the same time.

Q What are your goals?

A We want to continue what we are doing—creating books for children. For the last couple of years, Alan has been painting large pictures using oils. Lea is writing another young adult novel and re-writing a play that was workshopped last summer.

Q How would your children describe you?

A This is what they said and we didn't even bribe them: a perfect match, best friends, funny, kind, talented, lots of opinions, fun, warm, a balance for each other, respectful of one another's strengths and weaknesses.

Q What do you do in your free time?

A Canoe and swim in the summer, walk, read, listen to music, spend time with friends. We like movies, theatre and lectures.

Q Who or what inspires you and keeps your work fresh?

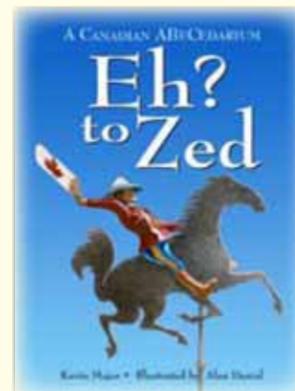
A Children inspire us. We pay attention to what they wear, how they express their feelings, how they move. We look at lots of paintings and illustrations and photographs. History has always been a big interest for both of us.

Q How has illustration art changed since you started your career?

A When we began, most children's illustration in Canada was done for educational books. There were few full-time illustrators, and they had to be extremely versatile to make a living. This has turned out to be an advantage because it gave us the tools to do many different kinds of work. Of course, there is much more use of computers now.

Q What advice would you give to someone wanting to be a professional illustrator?

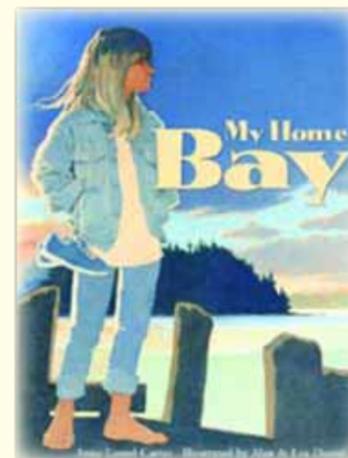
A Before deciding to be a professional illustrator, make sure you really, really want to do it because it isn't easy. Go to art school if you can because it will give you a chance to experiment, play and make mistakes. Learn your craft.



9780889952225, hc
9780889952720, pb

World

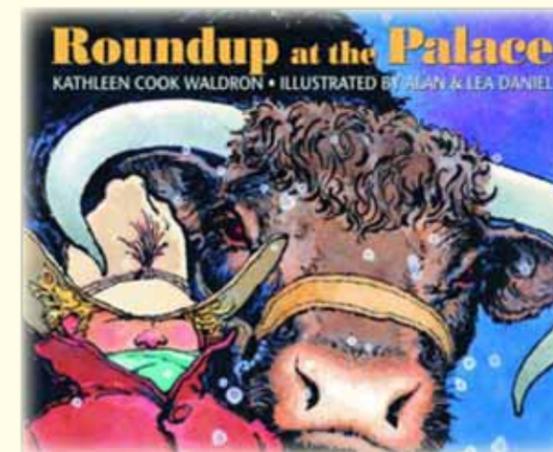
Picture Book, Alphabet Book Concept, Canadian Content Alberta Children's Book of the Year Award, Mr. Christie's Book Award shortlist, Ruth Schwartz Award shortlist, Ann Connor Brimer Award for Children's Literature shortlist, Amelia Frances Howard-Gibbon Award for Illustration shortlist, Alberta Trade Book of the year shortlist. CCBC Our Choice starred selection



9780889952843, hc

World

Picture Book, Relocation Alberta Children's Book of the Year shortlist, Alberta Book Illustration of the Year shortlist, Canadian Book Review Annual Editor's Choice: Children's Picture Book, CCBC Our Choice selection



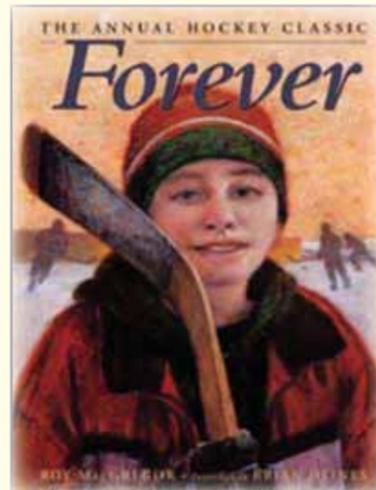
9780889953192, hc

World

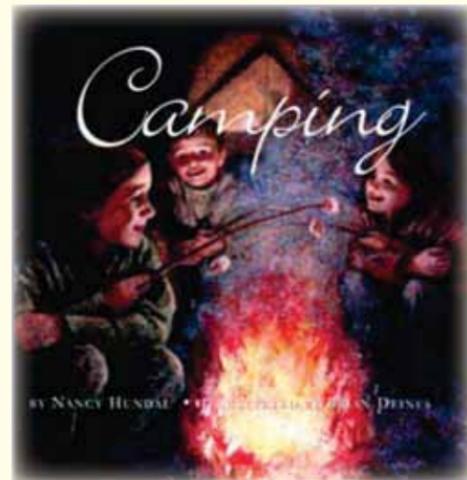
Picture Book, Friendship, Based on a True Story



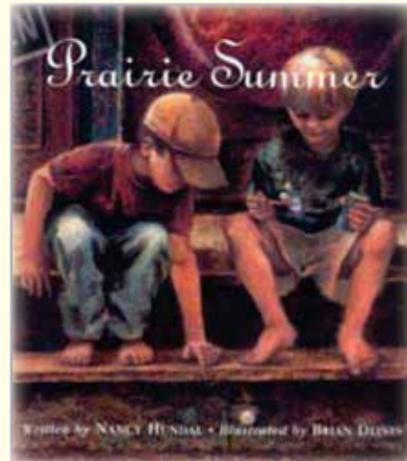
Illustration from Roundup at the Palace



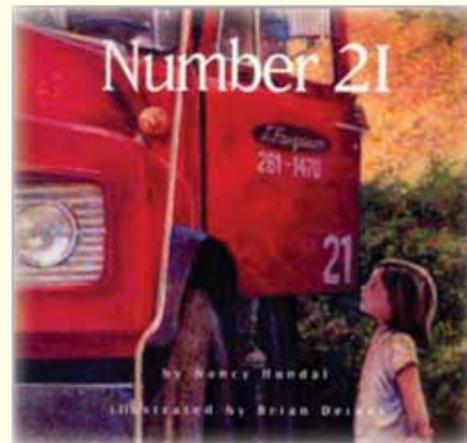
9780889953062, hc
 World
 Generational Story—Illustrated, Family Hockey Game
 Books For Everybody selection, Ruth Schwartz Award shortlist, Snow Willow Award shortlist



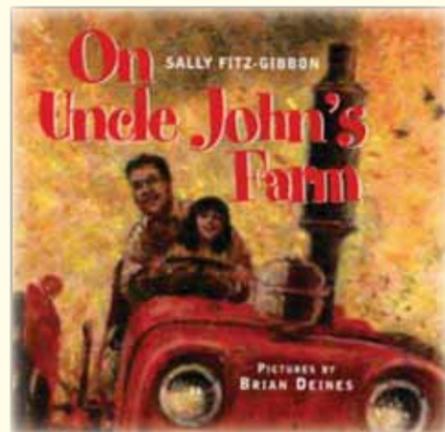
9781550416688, hc
 9781550416862, pb
 World ex. KR
 Picture Book, Family Life
 Amelia Frances Howard-Gibbon Award for Illustration Honour Book, Chocolate Lily Award shortlist



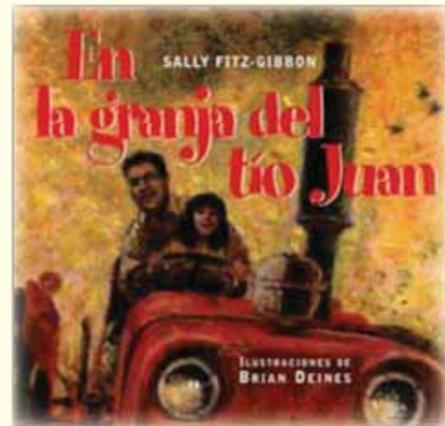
9781550417104, pb
 World
 Picture Book, Generational Story, Lyrical Text
 CLA Book of the Year Award shortlist



9781550415438, hc
 9781550419054, pb
 World
 Picture Book, Family Life
 CLA Book of the Year Award shortlist, Chocolate Lily Award shortlist



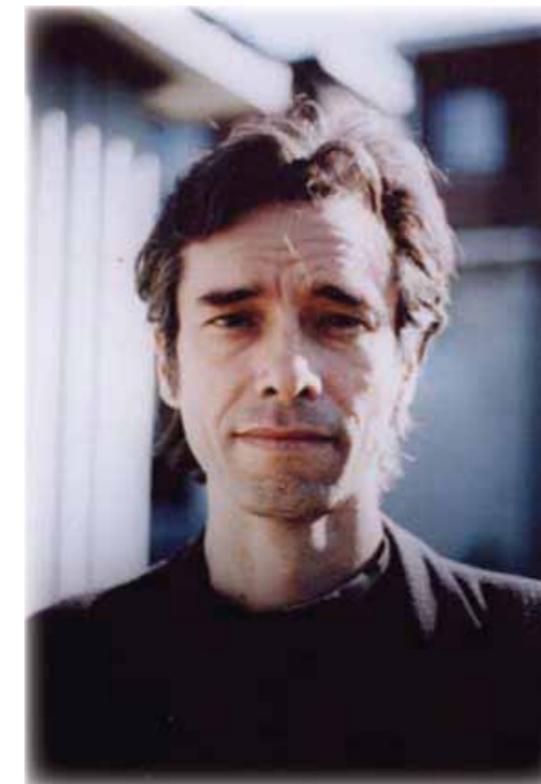
9781550418866, pb
 World
 Picture Book, Family Life, Farm Life
 OLA Best Bets selection



9781550418785, hc
 9781550418831, pb
 World
 Picture Book, Family Life, Farm Life

●●●● Brian Deines

✓ Toronto, ON



Award-winning illustrator Brian Deines has always loved to draw and paint. Becoming an illustrator “seemed like a natural outlet for these qualities.” Having a passion for music as well, Brian listens to music while he paints. When not in the studio, Brian can be found riding his mountain bike. He never leaves home without a camera. Photographs, he says, are “an extension of my art.”

For Brian, illustrations and text must complement each other. “I enjoy seeing the synergy between the text and my illustrations in print and how each makes the whole greater than they are on their own. Hopefully I am presenting the images in a form that is accessible to the viewer and lets them fall into the story. If I am successful in that regard, I’m happy.” For *On Uncle John’s Farm*, Brian says, “I wanted to use a loose textured style of painting to convey the atmosphere and energy of the text.”

Brian’s illustrations have a wonderful quality of authenticity. “I think all my books tend to incorporate some form of personal memory in them, one way or another.” For *Camping*, Brian recalled his own camping trips as a kid, especially “the smell of the wood fire and lots of bugs.” Brian admires the work of several artists, including Ben Nicholson, Edgar Degas, Johannes Vermeer, Christopher Pratt and Jack Chambers.

Brian’s idea of a perfect day is a combination of work and leisure. “Coffee and paper on the back deck with my family for breakfast, bike ride to the studio to paint for the day and a picnic in High Park with my family at the end of the day (biking again).” As for the future, Brian aims to continue painting both for children’s books and for fine art shows.

Illustration from *Camping*

