



●●●● Monica Devine

✓ Eagle River Valley, AK, USA

Monica is an accomplished photographer and writer of both fiction and non-fiction. She believes in the power of words and images to create great art.

Q What drives you to write?

A As a writer and photographer, I am pulled by the reality of what I see around me. Whether it be a picture of a person, a flower, an animal, or a landscape...there is always atmosphere and light and a story that cradles the subject; I am excited by the emotions and wonderment that writing and photography elicit.

Q Has your perception of being a writer changed since you became a published author?

A Getting a book published is an honour and a privilege. The fact that a company has that much faith in your work is humbling to me; but I will write and photograph whether the material gets published or not.

Q What was your inspiration for *Carry Me, Mama*? Is Katie based on a real person?

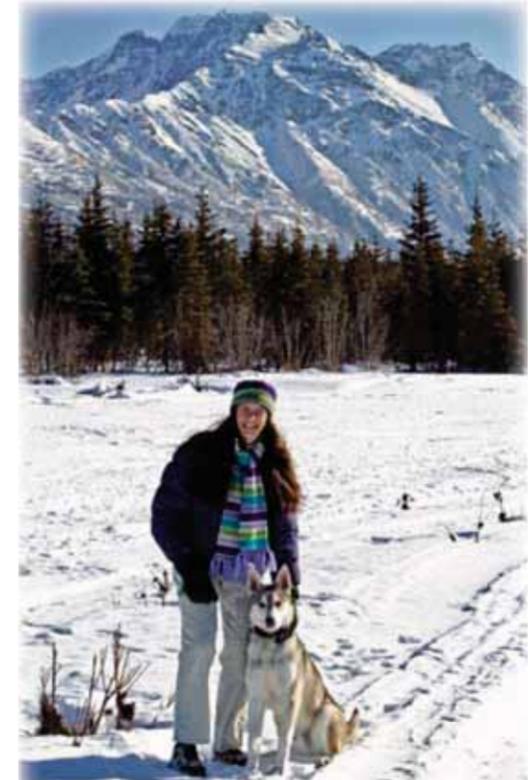
A Katie is based on many children I observed through my job travelling around the state of Alaska as a speech pathologist. Women in the villages, especially the Inupiat, carry their babies on their backs in the winter. A mom would come into the health clinic, stoop down, open her heavy parka and out would pop a beautiful rosy-cheeked child. It occurred to me that learning to walk, or "wanting" to walk is a universal theme.

Q What is your advice to aspiring writers?

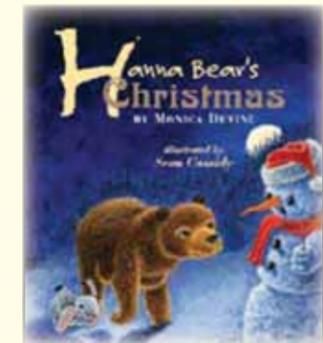
A Do what you love; do that which inspires you and makes you happy; be observant of the unexamined, invisible things and go forward deeply into your work and your life.

Q What do you want to be remembered for?

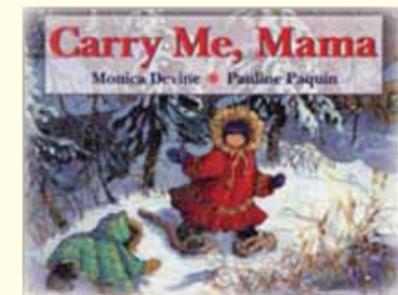
A I want to be remembered as someone who inspired and loved others well; someone who brought light into others' lives, whether in my profession, my writing world or in personal friendships.



Monica and her dog, Quinn, walking the frozen Eagle River near their home



9781550415858, hc
World
Picture Book, Friendship



9780773733176, hc
9781550051506, pb
World
Picture Book, Native, Family

●●●●Norma Dixon

✓ Vancouver, BC

Norma Dixon's love of animals comes through in her works of non-fiction, including *Lowdown on Earthworms* and *Focus on Flies*.

Q When did you start writing?

A I started back in high school. I wrote for the school newspaper, which was called *Tech Talk*. I didn't necessarily write anything relevant to animals though. It was mostly humour stuff: cafeteria scenes, gossip, et cetera.

Q How did your fascination with earthworms begin?

A I am a kids' guide at the VanDusen Botanical Garden. Working there, I found that there were no books written about earthworms that catered to children. All the books out there used scientific language and Latin names, which are hard for children to learn or read. I wanted to write animal books that used educational and fun language.

Q You have written several books about animals. Which animal has been the most interesting for you to write? Why?

A I don't necessarily choose to write about animals exclusively, it's just that there is a need for educational animal books, particularly about earthworms. But I write about other topics that interest me when I feel there is a need for them, too. For instance, I wrote a book about bamboo, which was also inspired by my work at the botanical garden.

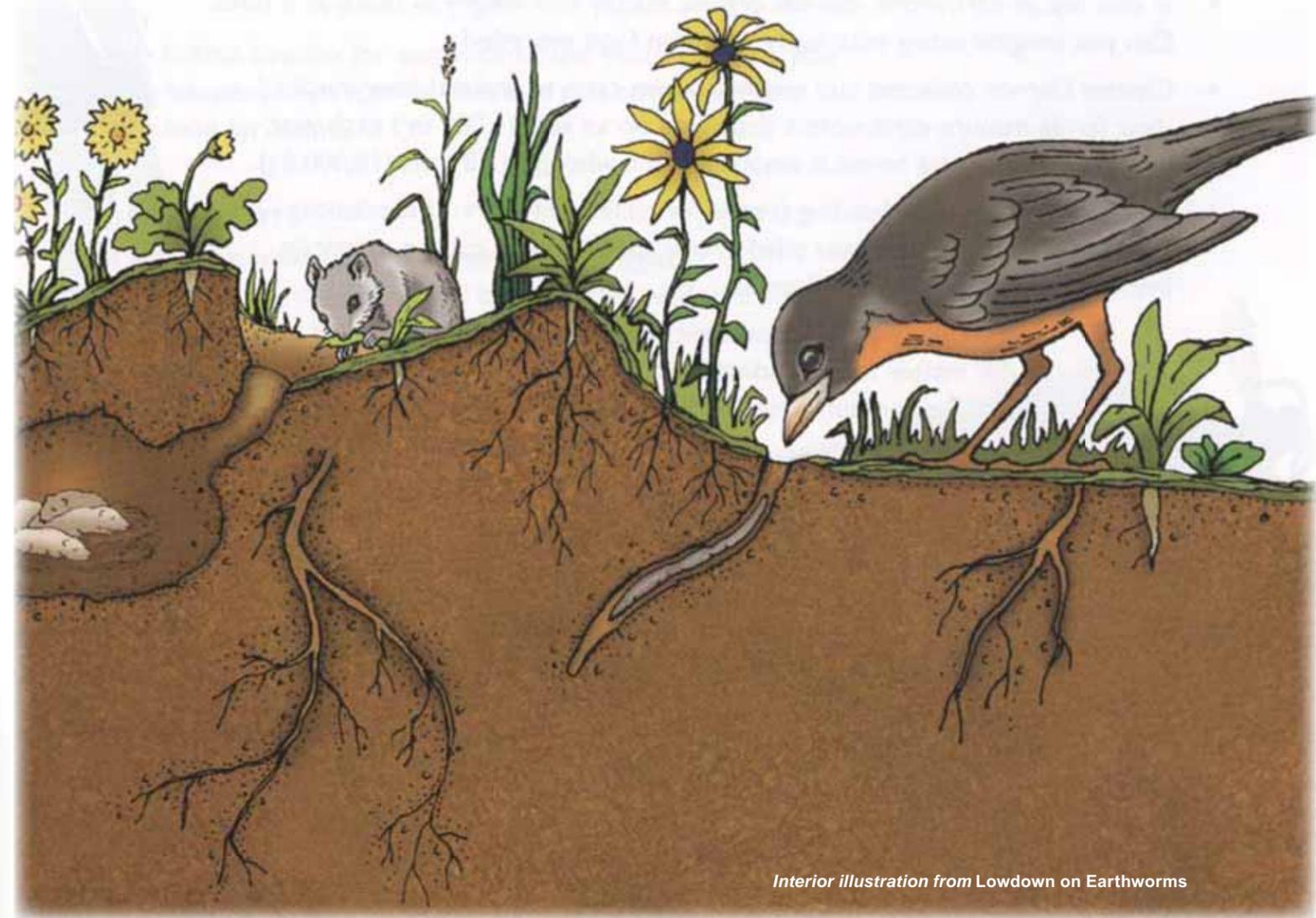
Q What other subjects besides animals fascinate you? Do you plan to write on any of these subjects?

A I've worked on a book about seashells, and I've also written articles in *Ranger Rick* magazine. I wrote picture books about cats and pigeons, too. Currently I'm working on something about mollusks. I'm also working on a book about non-fliers, that is, birds that don't fly, and it will feature ostriches and emus among other non-fliers.

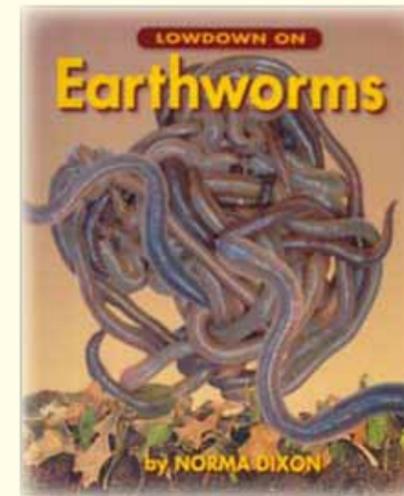


Q What is the best advice you have ever received?

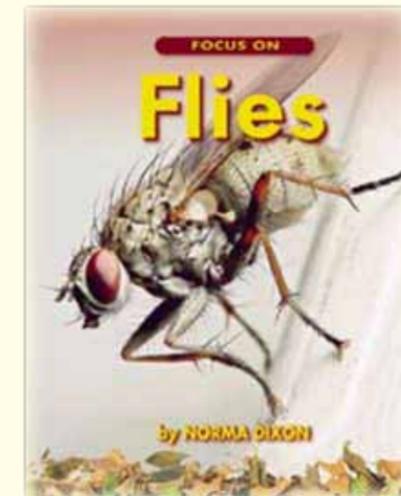
A Don't believe that you have to write only about things that you know about. You are limiting your knowledge when you do that. If you want to write about something and you feel you don't know enough about it, just go to the library and pick up some reference books. You can learn if you have the inclination.



Interior illustration from *Lowdown on Earthworms*



9781550051148, hc
9781550051193, pb
World
Ages 8-12, Non-Fiction, Science, Life Cycle, Activities Included
OLA Silver Birch Award for Non-Fiction shortlist, ForeWord Magazine Book of the Year Award finalist-Juvenile Non-Fiction, SB&F Prize finalist-Hands on Science/Activity Book, Animal Behaviour Society Outstanding Book Award shortlist



9781550051285, hc
World
Ages 8-12, Non-Fiction, Science, Classifications, Activities Included

●●●● Kristyn Dunnion

www.kristyndunnion.com ✓ Toronto, ON

Kristyn Dunnion studied English literature and theatre at McGill University. She completed a Masters Degree in English at the University of Guelph and began writing for younger readers while participating in Peter Carver's course, Writing for Children, at George Brown College in Toronto.

Q You have a talent for expressing ideas through dress, radio shows and children's literature. Where does your creativity and desire to express come from?

A Possibly another planet. My mother claims I was like this when she found me!

Q Were the characters in *Mosh Pit* and *Missing Matthew* modelled after real individuals?

A Yes and no. There's a bit of me in almost all of the main characters, but they are their own people with their own lives. Some characters were inspired by actual humans or do things that actual humans have done, but these books are fiction, not memoirs or autobiographies.

Q What drives you to write?

A Insomnia.

Q As someone who enjoys any excuse to dress in costume, what is the most interesting costume you have ever worn?

A I particularly like to wear a wig and apron during rerun episodes of *Desperate Housewives*. If I host a vegan BBQ, I also require my guests to wear one of my vintage aprons. For more elaborate costumes, some of my favourites include: The Ghost of a Dead Moth, Queen Elizabeth I, and GoGo Yubari from *Kill Bill*. I like to attend fetish parties dressed as a Stepford wife, and I really, really like to dress as a zombie. Like anytime.

Q What makes good writing?

A Gorgeous language, unpredictable but rhythmic dialogue, love-worthy characters.



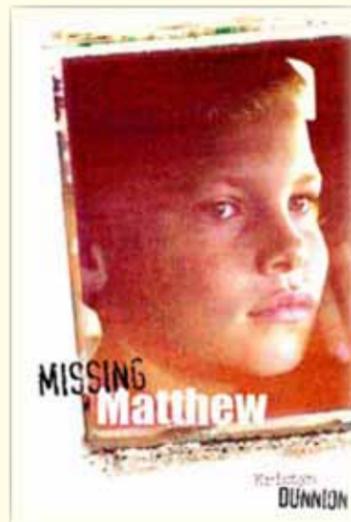
Q What are your future goals, literary or otherwise?

A My next novel is *Big Big Sky*—a futuristic, queer novel starring some hot teen Assassins. Right now I'm working on a collection of short stories called *Dirt*. I'd like to expand a performance series called *The Zombie Love Project*.

I want to practise my electric bass more and someday play in a band. I would like to have a garden someday...maybe a dog. World peace.

Q What is your advice to aspiring writers?

A Take public transportation. Always carry a notebook. Get interested in other people.



9780889952782, pb

World
Grade 6+, Family Issues, Bullying, Relationships

CCBC Our Choice selection



9780889952928, pb

World ex. film
Grade 9+, Sexuality, Coming of Age
Alberta Trade Fiction Book of the Year shortlist, CCBC Our Choice selection



●●●● Deborah Ellis

✓ Simcoe, ON

Deborah Ellis is one of North America's most popular writers of middle-grade and YA fiction. Most of the royalties from her books are donated to organizations, such as Women for Women in Afghanistan and UNICEF.

Q Looking back, would you change anything about your childhood?

A I'd take more risks, be braver, make an effort to get to know more people, especially other loners, and recognize how much power I have to make someone's day better.

Q What motivates you as a social activist?

A Hope. Fear. Anger. Faith. Hope. Humour.

Q What was your first act of activism?

A I showed films about nuclear war in my high school.

Q Your recent works cover war, AIDS and injustice. What draws you to these topics?

A I'm interested in how people deal with courage, particularly when they have no resources to fall back on but themselves.

Q What is your message to your readers about making choices and staying true to who they are?

A That we ARE making choices, even when we think we're not, with what we buy, what we

believe, how we spend our time. There's a lot we can't control, but we can control our choices. Make them deliberately. Make them with thought and with courage.

Q Do you seek writing advice from others?

A I get advice from people who have gone before me, writers and activists. I learn from their victories and their mistakes.

Q What would you say to an aspiring writer?

A Don't quit. Pay your bills. And don't take yourself too seriously. There are much harder jobs in the world.

Q What do you want to accomplish?

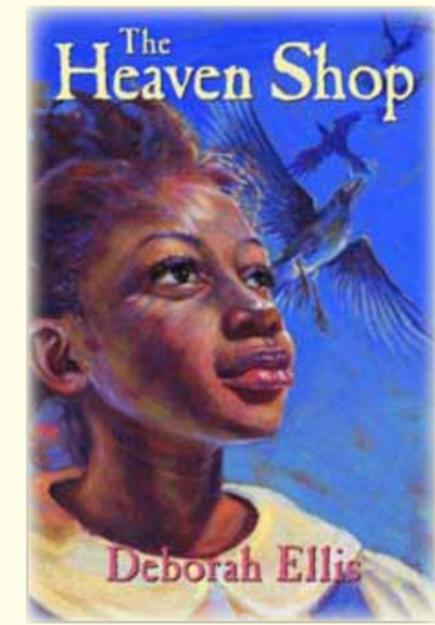
A I want to work hard, do my best, fall in love, cook a meal that won't kill anyone.

Q What are you thankful for?

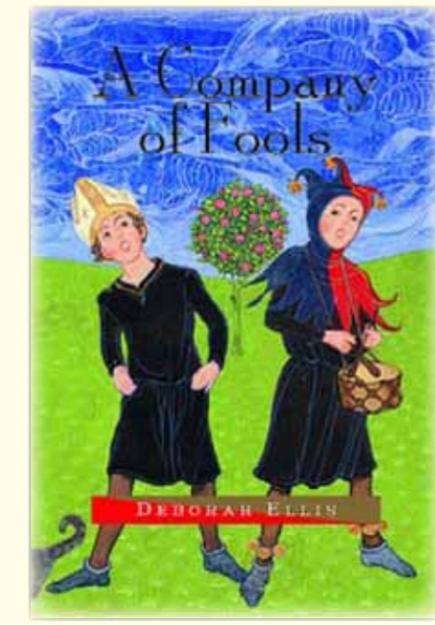
A I'm thankful for being a woman born in Canada at this point in history; for books; for people throughout history who have valued books.

Q Where do you do most of your writing?

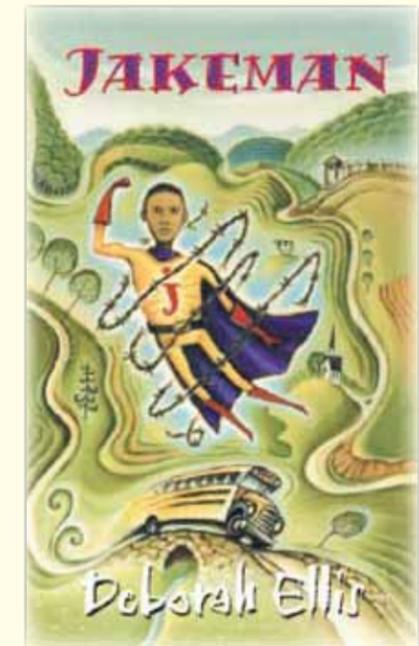
A In doughnut shops.



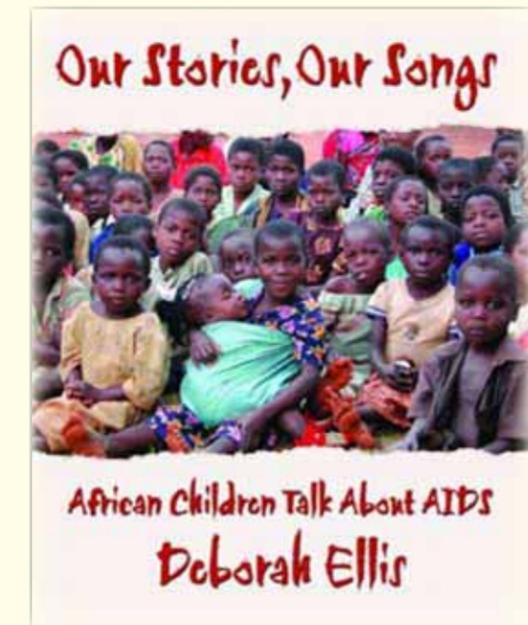
9781550419085, hc
9781550419078, pb
World ex. AU, NZ, CN, FR, DE, IT, JP, KR, Spa. in ES & Latin America; Eng. in GB, European Union, Africa & Carribean; film Grade 6+, Social Issues, Health Issues, AIDS, Family, Adversity
Jane Addams Children's Book Award Honor Book for Older Children, Ruth & Sylvia Schwartz Award for Young Adult/Middle Reader Books shortlist, Children's Africana Book Awards (CABA) Honor Book for Older Readers, ForeWord Magazine Book of the Year Award shortlist, MYRCA Honour Book, OLA Golden Oak Award shortlist, Alberta Children's Choice Book Award shortlist, CCBC Our Choice selection



9781550417197, hc
9781550417210, pb
World ex. Spa. in MX, US & Central/South America; AU, NZ, KR
Grade 6+, Historical Fiction, Medieval Fiction, Set During the Black Plague
Ruth Schwartz Award shortlist, Mr. Christie's Book Award Silver Seal, Geoffrey Bilson Award for Historical Fiction Honour Book



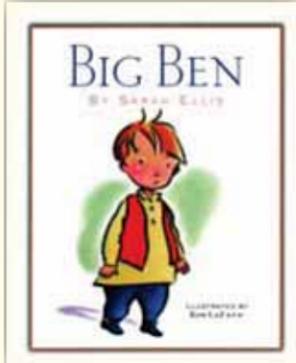
9781550415735, hc
9781550415759, pb
World
Grade 6+, Social Issues, Social Change, Family Issues, Adversity



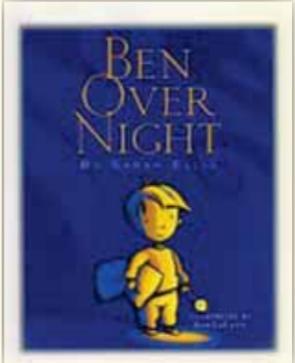
9781550419139, hc
9781550419122, pb
World
Grade 7+, Non-Fiction, Social Issues, Health Issues, Children with AIDS in Africa, Adversity
Norma Fleck Award for Canadian Children's Non-Fiction shortlist, Book Links Best Book for the Classroom, SLJ Best Book, Information Book Award shortlist, IODE Violet Downey Book Award Runner-up, ALA Notable



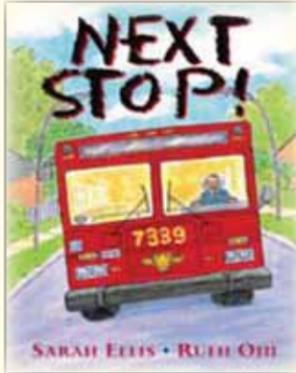
Sarah reads to the children at Vancouver Kidsbooks.



9781550419399, pb
 World ex. KR
 Picture Book, Self-Esteem,
 Sibling Kindness
 Mr. Christie's Book Award
 shortlist, Tiny Torgi PrintBraille
 Award shortlist, Shining Willow
 Award shortlist



9781550418071, hc
 9781550419108, pb
 World ex. KR
 Picture Book, Overcoming Fear,
 Validation, Self-Esteem
 OLA Blue Spruce Award
 shortlist, Chocolate Lily Book
 Award shortlist, OLA Best Bets



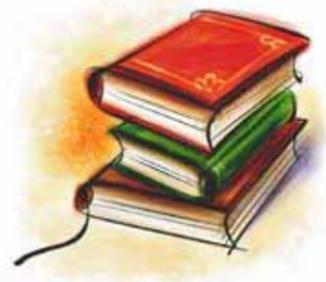
9781550415391, hc
 9781550418095, pb
 World
 Picture Book, Transportation,
 Family



9780889953208, hc
 World
 Picture Book, Lyrical Text
 Christie Harris Illustrated Children's Book Award
 shortlist

●●●●Sarah Ellis

www.sarahellis.ca ✓ Vancouver, BC



Sarah Ellis grew up in a family that loved to share stories and read books, and that's what fostered her passion for literature. She writes and reviews books for children and teaches courses on children's literature and librarianship.

Q What drives you to write?

A I write to figure things out for myself, for the pleasure of finding the right words, to shape experience.

Q What were your favourite books as a child?

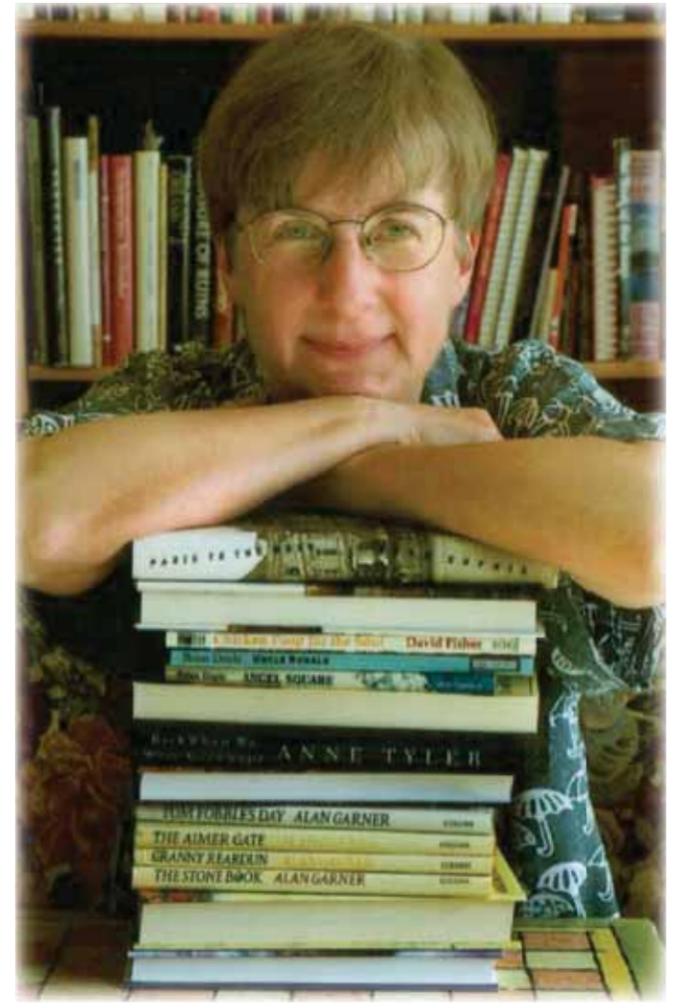
A As a preschooler, I loved *The Little Fur Family* and *Winnie the Pooh* and the Grimm and Andersen stories that my parents read to us. When I started to read by myself, *The Secret Garden* became my favourite book. I also read and reread and reread the *Little House on the Prairie* series. As a young teen, my best discovery was *I Capture the Castle* by Dodie Smith.

Q As a children's librarian and writer, what trends do you see in Canadian children's literature?

A Just at the moment I'm noticing two trends—using some of the conventions of “chick-lit” but playing them against a small town setting. And a trend towards established adult writers turning to juvenile subjects and audiences.

Q Does winning awards like the Governor General's Award (*Pick-up Sticks*) and the Mr. Christie's Book Award (*Out of the Blue*) change your view of your writing?

A I try not to have a view of my own writing. I don't read the books after they are published (exception: taping several of my books for the print handicapped). I find that looking backwards makes me self-conscious, and the thing to do is pay



attention to the current project. Which isn't to say that winning awards isn't a bag of fun.

Q Is the character of Ben (*Ben Over Night*, *Big Ben*) based on a real boy?

A Actually, Ben is me. I just give Ben all my preschool challenges such as being youngest and finding it difficult to stay overnight away from home.

Q What are your goals?

A I simply want to write the best books I'm capable of. I'd like to try something more speculative in the fiction line, and I'm always looking for the perfect picture book story.

●●●●Joanne Fitzgerald

✓ Orton, ON

From as young as she can remember, Joanne liked to doodle. Her dreamy childhood illustrations carried her into another world where she was able to convey what she saw through pictures.

Joanne graduated with a Bachelor of Fine Arts from Mount Allison University in Sackville, New Brunswick. She continued to illustrate and develop her own style. "I wish I felt I had a particular style of illustration," she admits. "Sometimes I feel like going and doing something totally different in terms of style. I guess what remains constant in my illustrations are my particular sensibilities with regard to characters and content."

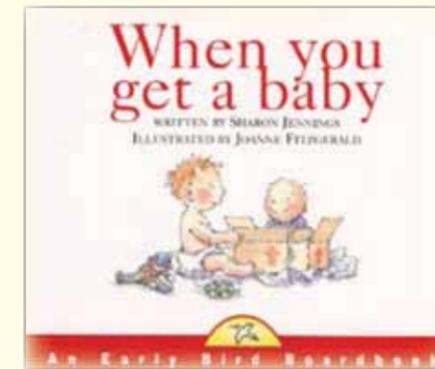
"Illustrations can make a book or break it," Joanne says. "I think most readers, adults and children alike, cannot even begin to appreciate the amount of planning and work that goes into illustrating a picture book."

Joanne puts great care and planning into her illustrations. In 1991 she won the Governor General's Award for Illustration. She was also the recipient of the Mr. Christie's Book Award in 2001.

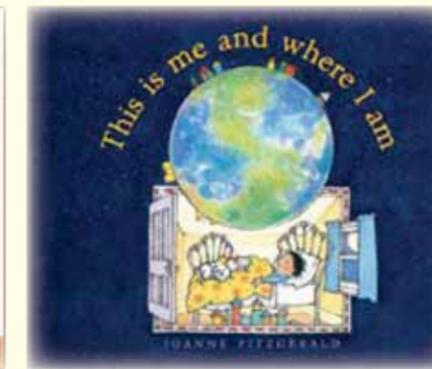
Joanne was both illustrator and writer of *This is me and where I am*. This book for preschoolers "is about a weird sense that I had in my own childhood about being inside of an inside of an inside of something, as it were. And that outside of all of that were a whole bunch of other layers."

Joanne cites Marc Chagall and Andrew Wyeth as her favourite artists. "I love the unanswerable mysteries in Chagall's paintings, and what I interpret as pure emotion expressed in paint. In the late fall, it is always definitely Andrew Wyeth—my eyes just see the landscape as Wyeth-land."

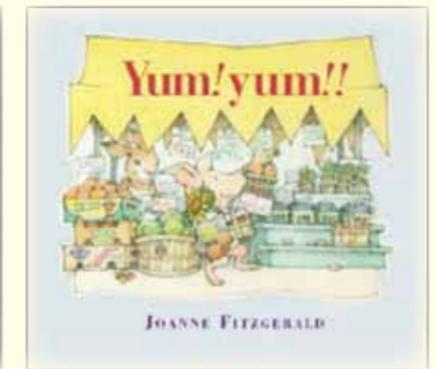
Joanne says that, had she not become an illustrator, she might have worked as a doctor, airline pilot or chef. But being an illustrator is full of challenges and surprises. "Every single drawing or painting is a journey, and the one thing I know without a doubt is that I can never predict how it will turn out."



9781550417029, bb
World
Board Book, Preschool

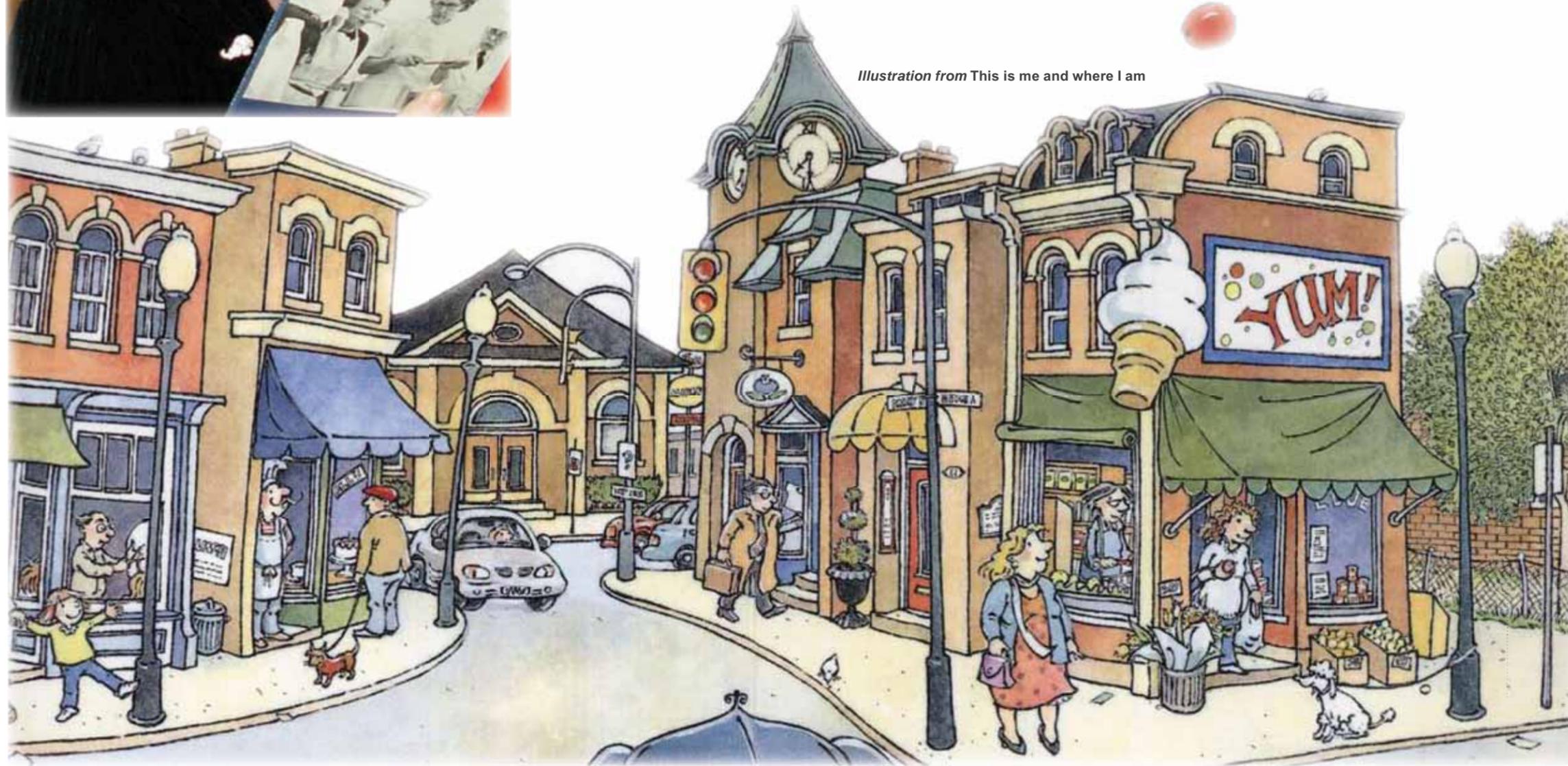


9781550418194, hc
9781550417869, bb
World
Preschool, Concept, A Child's Place in the World
CCBC Our Choice selection



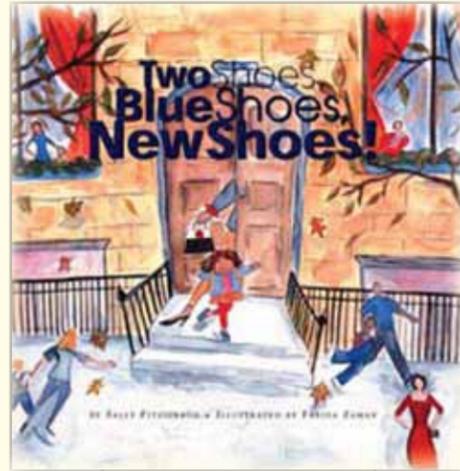
9781550418880, hc
World
Preschool, Nursery Rhymes

Illustration from *This is me and where I am*

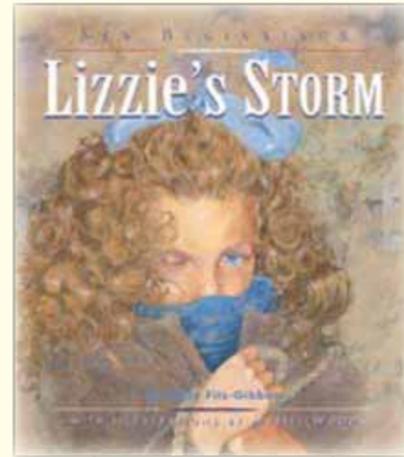


●●●●Sally Fitz-Gibbon

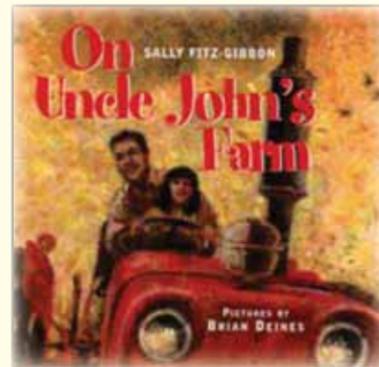
✓ Bowen Island, BC



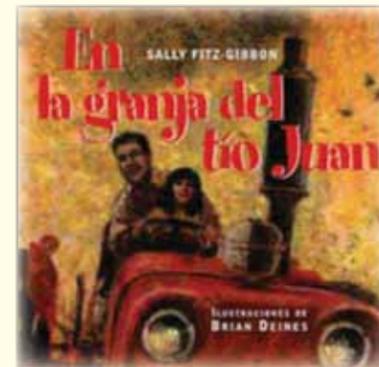
9781550417296, hc
9781550417319, pb
World
Picture Book, Lyrical Rhyming Text, A Magical Adventure



9781550417951, pb
World
Illustrated Reader, Immigration, Historical, Adversity
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



Illustration from *Two Shoes, Blue Shoes, New Shoes!*

Sally Fitz-Gibbon has a deep interest in art, the environment, and history, which appear as central themes in her many acclaimed books.

Q Who was your favourite writer as a child?

A As I have a very English background, my favourite writer was Beatrix Potter. J.M. Barrie came a close second. What I really loved about both these authors was their strong sense of place and their ability to communicate it to the reader. *The Tailor of Gloucester* and *The Fairy Caravan* were the two books that I read over and over again.

Q You write in a room overlooking an ocean. How does that inspire you?

A The ocean has always seemed like an open door linking me to the rest of the world. To write looking out at it seems the height of luxury. I can imagine myself journeying to wherever I want just by looking at the ocean. The many birds and animals that come with it are wonderful to me.

Q *On Uncle John's Farm* portrays a very warm and feel-good childhood. Did you pull any of that book from your own childhood experiences?

A My uncle had a ranch in the Cariboo in B.C. that he homesteaded in the 1950s. I used to visit every summer and love to ride the horses. There was one particular pony called Kay that I really liked, but who knew the minute I turned for home. She would gallop as fast as she could, and I would arrive back at the ranch breathless. I didn't put this in the story, but it was in my mind when I wrote the book. I think the fact that I had a wonderfully secure childhood comes out in the book. I was never afraid to try new things as a child, and I think this is echoed by the little girl in the book. The fact that she is loved allows her to be adventurous.

Q What other interests or hobbies do you have that you have carried into your books?

A I have always been interested in houses and homes. I love to follow a home through changes over time.



Q Is there a that you would someday like to tackle in a book?

A I would like to write books in which something really strange happens to the main character. It would be fun to see how he or she would deal with it.

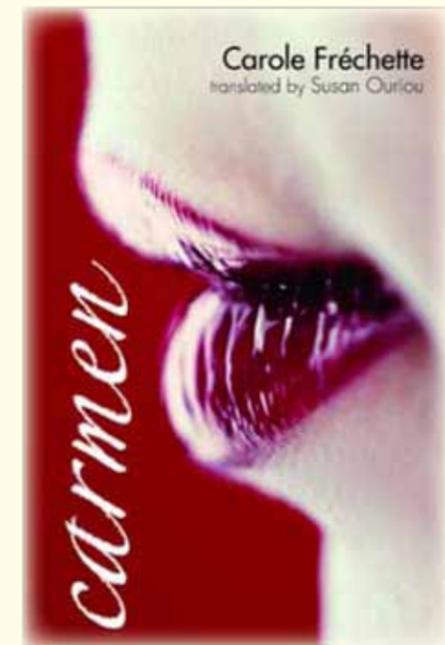


“I started reading books late, around 14 or 15. When I was a child I read comics like *Rin Tin Tin*. I devoured all books, and have read these books to my child.”



●●●● Carole Fréchette

✓ Montreal, QC



97808889953222, hc
97808889953659, pb

NA only

Ages 12+, Adventure, Self Discovery, Peer Pressure

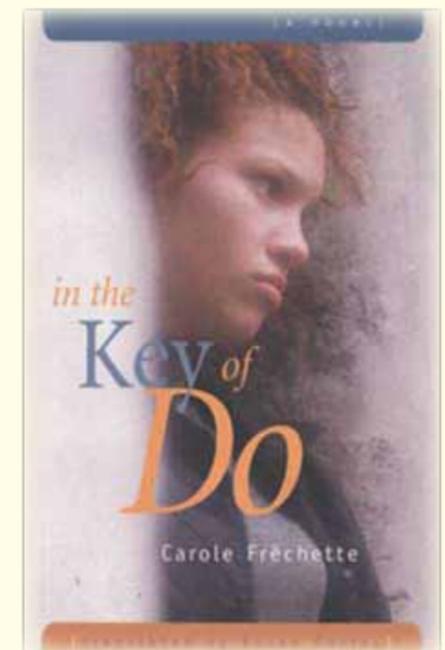
ForeWord Magazine Book of the Year Award shortlist

Before turning her hand to teen fiction, Montreal-born Carole Fréchette was an award-winning playwright in Quebec. In 1998 her play, *Les Quatre morts de Marie*, won the Governor General's Award and the Chalmers Prize.

For Carole, writing plays and writing fiction for teens present different challenges. A playwright has to work within the constraints of the genre—"the author can only communicate her ideas through dialogue, not through prose." In a book of fiction, "the possibilities are far greater. You can be in the head of one person, travelling through time and space, but then with a few words from the narrator, the travelling changes course."

After her first book was published, Carole took the bold step of writing full-time. "I am proud of having done that—to have faith, fervour and the desire to write, and just jump into the void. I have no regrets. Writing has become my trade. I have taken that passion for writing and worked it into hours of labour, and a large part of that work consists of confidence—in my ideas and intuitions."

Carole's confidence has paid off. *Carmen*, the story of a 15-year-old girl's journey of self-discovery, has been a hit with reviewers and, more importantly, with readers. It's clear that Carole understands and cares not only about her characters, but also about her readers. And she knows when to let go. "Once a book is finished," she tells her readers, "I'm not there to live the moment with you."



97808889952546, pb

NA only

Ages 12+, Friendship

ALA/YALSA Quick Pick for Reluctant Readers



●●●●Marie-Louise Gay

✓ Montreal, QC

Marie-Louise Gay was born in Quebec City and grew up in Sherbrooke, Montreal, Oakville and Vancouver. As a child, she found it difficult to adjust to so many changes. "It was difficult because there were always new schools, new friends to make and no extended family," she says. "But I escaped from that through reading. I was a travelling bookworm." Marie-Louise took weekly trips to the library, where she would read for hours.

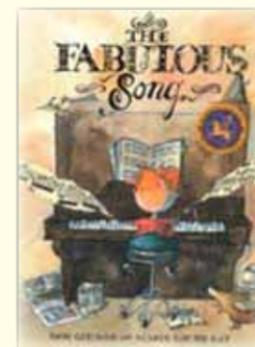
Marie-Louise attended the Institute of Graphic Arts in Montreal. She transferred to the Montreal Museum School of Fine Art, and then to the Academy of Art College in San Francisco. She submitted drawings to publishers on a regular basis, hoping for a break.

When she moved back to Montreal, Marie-Louise began illustrating children's books, creating new and visual worlds through art. "The need to tell stories with pictures drives me to illustrate," she says. She has written and illustrated dozens of award-winning picture books loved by children around the world.

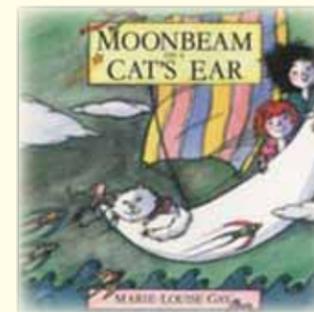
Marie-Louise offers this advice for aspiring illustrators: "Observe the world around you. Take visual notes. Spend a lot of time in bookstores and libraries to see what is being published."



Illustration from Rabbit Blue



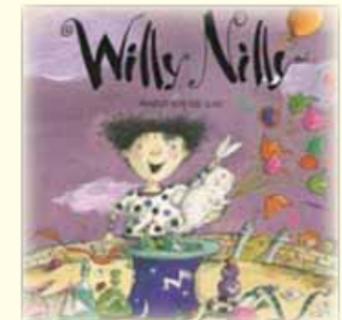
9780773760998, pb
World ex. DK, dramatic
Picture Book, Music
Mr. Christie's Book Award
Gold Seal, Storytelling
World Award Honor Title



9780773673656, pb
World ex. FrC, dramatic
Picture Book, Fanciful, Lyrical
Text
Amelia Frances Howard-Gibbon
Award for Illustration



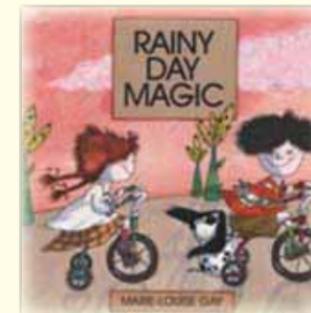
9780773731004, hc
9781550050752, pb
World ex. dramatic
Picture Book, Humour



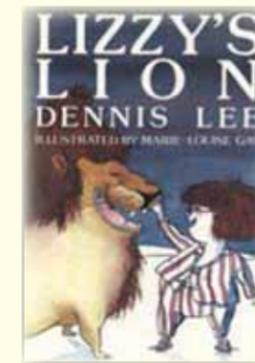
9780773674332, pb
World ex. US, NO, SE, FrC, AU,
NZ, dramatic
Picture Book, Fanciful, Magic



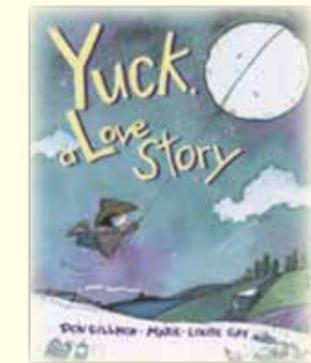
9780773674202, pb
World ex. US, DE, DK, FrC,
dramatic
Picture Book, Humour, Fanciful



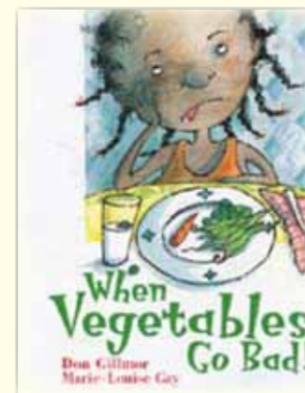
9780773673663, pb
World ex. DK, FrC, dramatic
Picture Book, Concept,
Colours
Governor General's Award
for Illustration, Amelia
Frances Howard-Gibbon
Award for Illustration



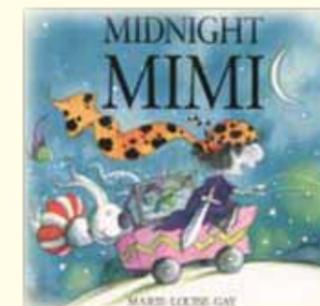
9780773700789, hc
9780773673977, pb
World ex. DK, dramatic
Picture Book, Lyrical Text
Canada Council Award for
Children's Book Illustration



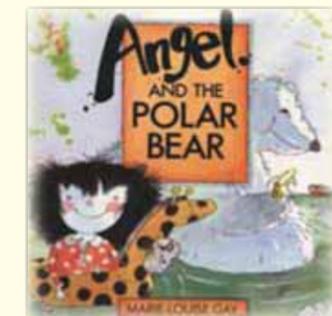
9780773732186, hc
9780773762091, pb
World ex. DK, Spa. in the
Americas, French (excl.
Quebec), dramatic
Picture Book, Friendship,
Fanciful
Governor General's Award
for Illustration



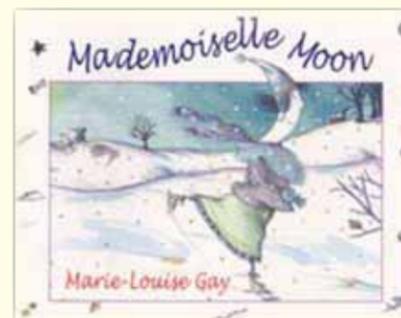
9781550051018, pb
World ex. dramatic
Picture Book, Humour



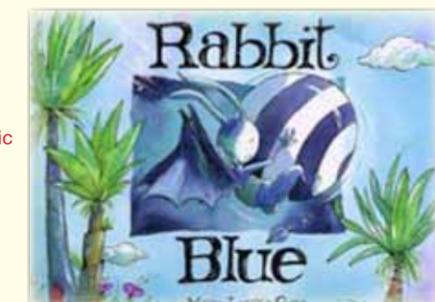
9780773762039, pb
World ex. FrC, dramatic
Picture Book, Imaginative, Humour



9780773673984, pb
World ex. NL, FrC, dramatic
Picture Book, Imaginative,
Humour



9781550051346, pb
World ex. FrC, dramatic
Picture Book,
Descriptive Text,
Sun & Moon Story,
Imaginative
White Raven selection

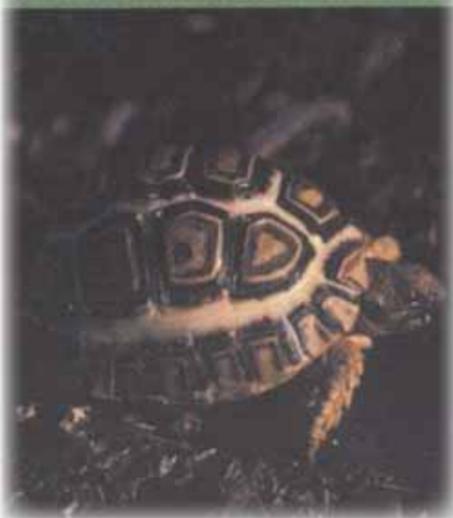


9781550050837, pb
World ex. FrC, dramatic
Picture Book, Simple
Text, Imaginative

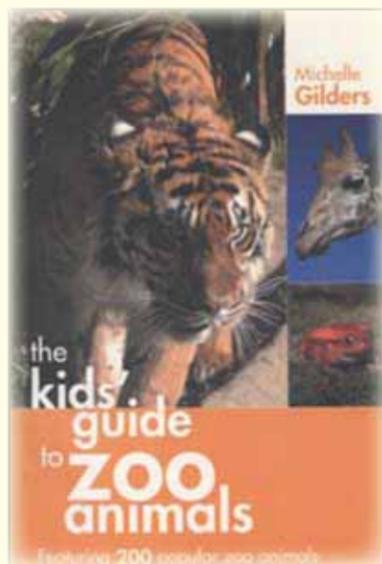
Phylum: Chordata
 Class: Reptilia
 Order: Testudines
 Family: Testudinidae
 Genus: *Geochelone*
 Species: *Geochelone pardalis*



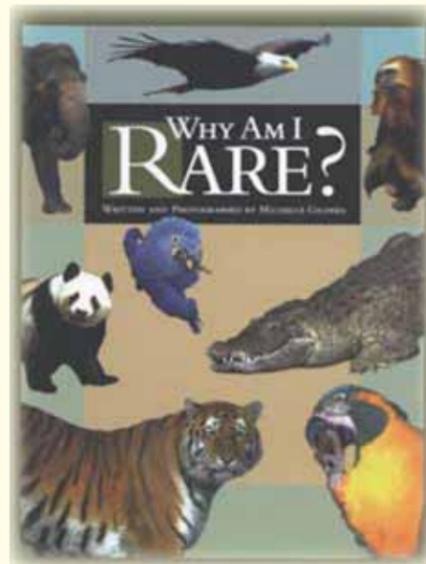
Unlike tortoises found in temperate climates, the tropical leopard tortoise does not hibernate in winter.



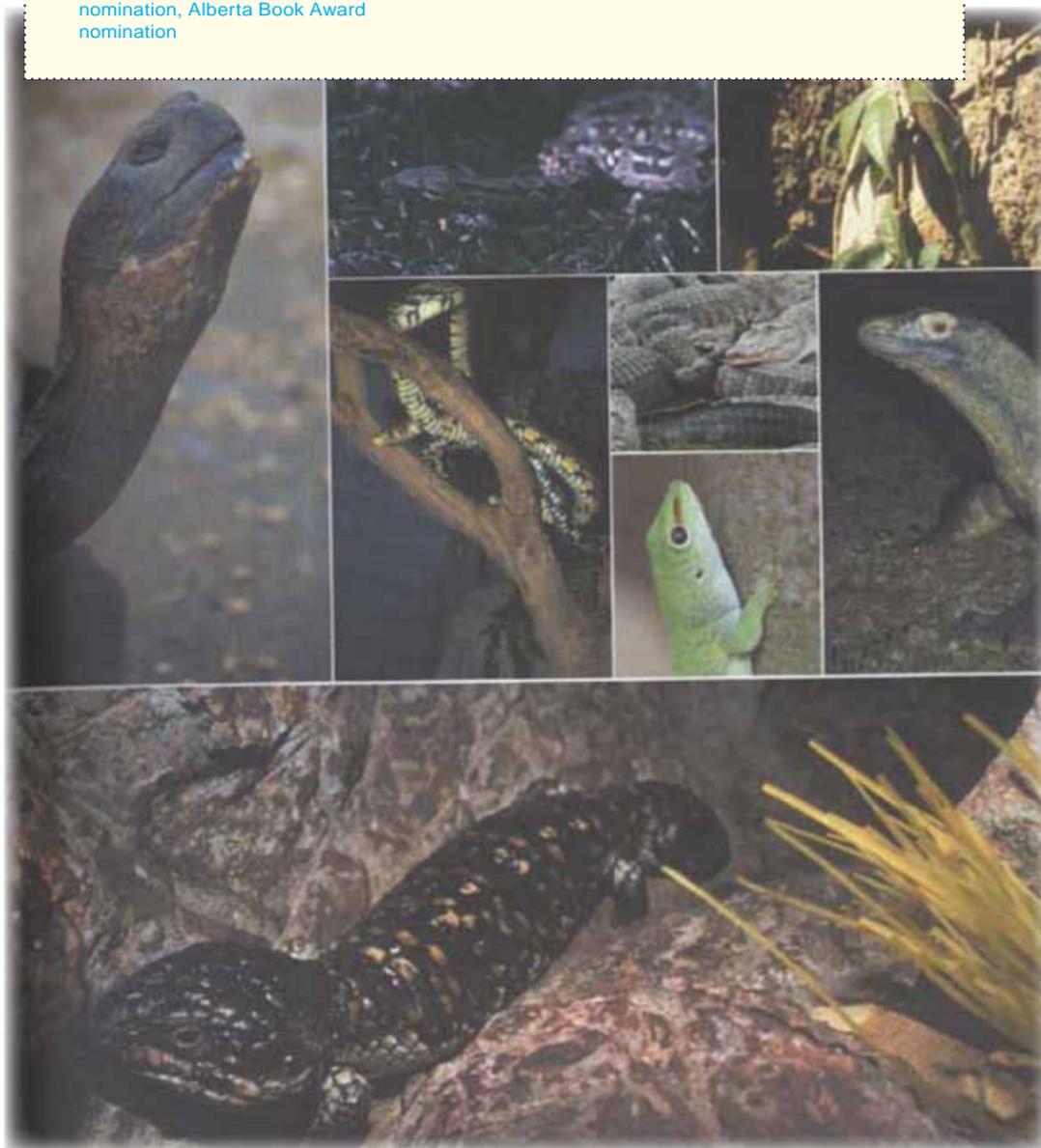
Images from The Kids' Guide to Zoo Animals



9780889953017, pb
 World
 Non-Fiction, Reference, Animal Studies,
 Colour Illustrations
 Benjamin Franklin Award for Reference
 nomination, Alberta Book Award
 nomination



9780889952744, pb
 World
 Non-Fiction, Picture Book, Science, Animal
 Studies
 Rocky Mountain Book Award shortlist



Michelle Gilders

www.michellegilders.com ✓ Cochrane, AB



understand a place is to visit and immerse yourself in it. Travel in support of writing helps me layer my writing with real experiences and to reflect better the true flavour and feeling of a place. I want to go beyond the usual information and introduce cutting-edge science and observation in all of my books.

Q Besides writing, what is the best job you've ever had?

A Being a wildlife photographer is definitely the best job I've ever had. It allows me to combine my two loves—animals and photography. It is artistic but also scientific. I need to think visually and to know my quarry. It requires patience and adventure. When I head off into the mountains to photograph for the day, I never know what I will see.

Q What is your favourite animal to write about?

A Marine mammals have always fascinated me; whales, dolphins and porpoises belong to a complex order of mammals. We may share an evolutionary history, but their aquatic lifestyle makes them so inaccessible and so alien compared to humans. We still have so much to learn about cetaceans.

Q In what ways are the rewards of being a photographer and biologist different from the rewards of working with books?

A The actual writing of a book is a rather solitary endeavour, and one that typically takes place in my office—although during the preparatory stages I travel a lot. Working as a photographer and a biologist takes me out in the world, gathering the experiences that help me later as a writer. It is also very rewarding to sit back at the end of a book project and have the physical book in your hands. That is definitely a moment of completion!

Q As a child you dreamed of owning a zoo. Do you still have that aspiration?

A I no longer want my own zoo. Now, more than ever, I want to ensure that there are wild spaces in the world where the incredible diversity of life on Earth can prosper and evolve. I live close to Banff National Park and other incredible wilderness areas. These areas are precious, but still too small. Zoos can be important in protecting some animals, but real protection means viable, integrated parks and wilderness.

Michelle wants her writing to encourage thought and action towards preserving animals and their habitats. Her book, *Why Am I Rare?* was shortlisted for the 2003 Alberta Book Awards.

Q What drives you to write about animals?

A I have been fascinated by nature for as long as I can remember. I feel a connection to nature. As a species, humans crave a connection to wild places and animals. We can appreciate so much and we can understand just what it is that we risk losing.

Q How do you research for your books?

A I love trying to find a new piece of information that hasn't found its way into popular books. When I write I don't simply want to repeat what I have researched in papers, journals or other books. I want to combine what I have seen myself with new information. I believe the only way to really



Rachna in Prince Edward Island

●●●● Rachna Gilmore

www.rachnagilmore.ca ✓ Ottawa, ON

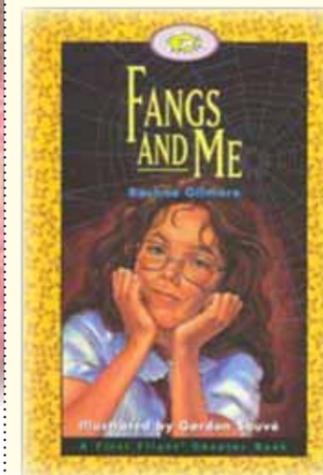
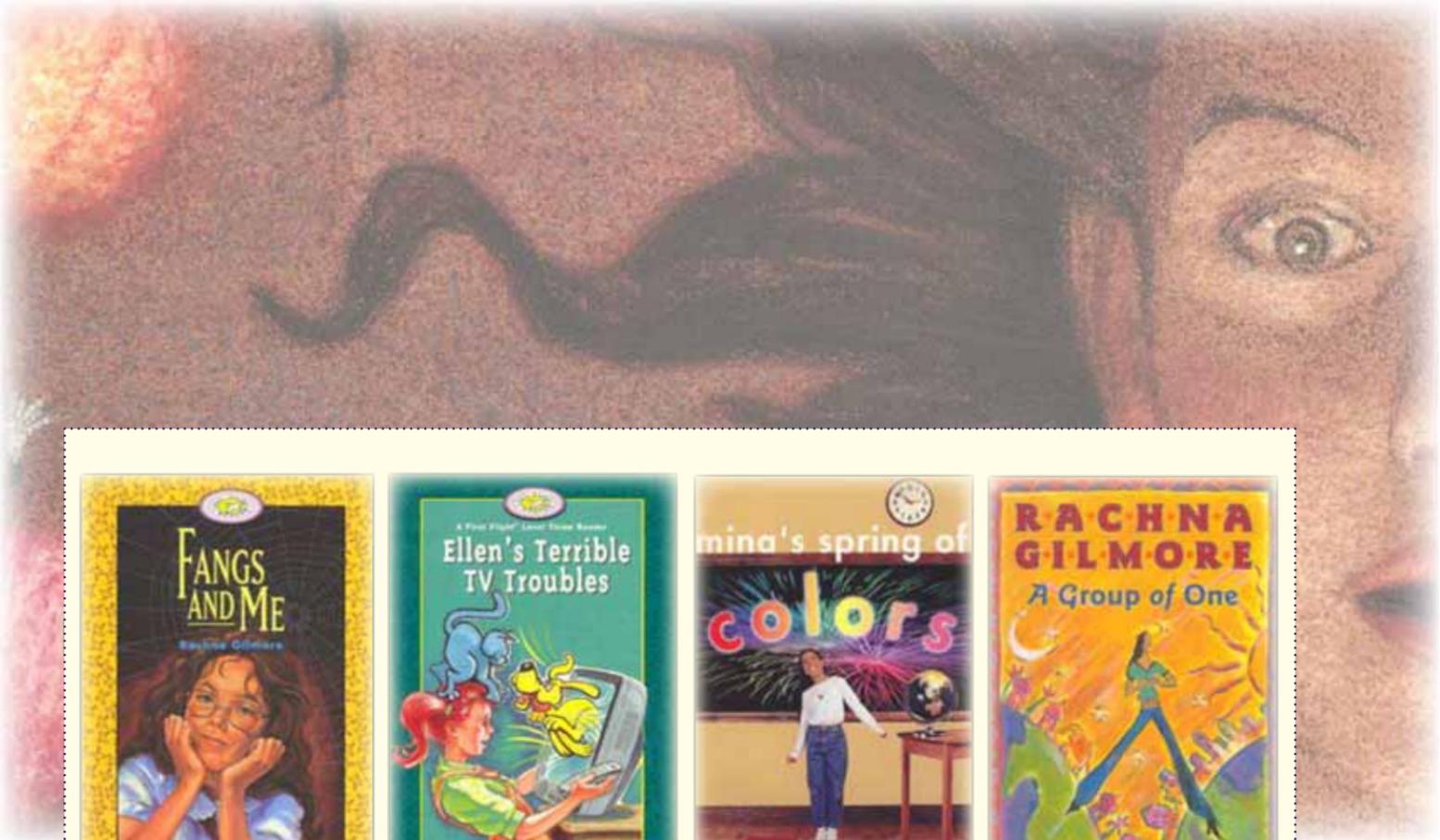
Rachna Gilmore has won critical acclaim and multiple honours and awards, including the Governor General's Award. Her publications include picture books, early readers, middle grade and young adult novels, as well as adult fiction. Rachna's books are sold internationally with translations in French, Danish, German, Korean, Spanish, Urdu, Bengali, Chinese and other languages. Rachna has given readings and workshops in schools, libraries and conferences across the country, where she also advises aspiring writers to keep writing. "You can read about writing, take courses about writing, dream about writing, and dream about being a writer, but the only way to learn is simply to write. That said, my other advice would be to read a lot, too. If you read extensively, especially good literature, you get an almost instinctive sense in your body, mind and soul how to construct a story, how the story arc should deepen and develop, how to pace it and keep it flowing. My other advice is to have fun."

Rachna's family moved from India to England, where she graduated with a biology degree from the University of London. Then she came to Canada. "I was looking for home," she says. "Having left

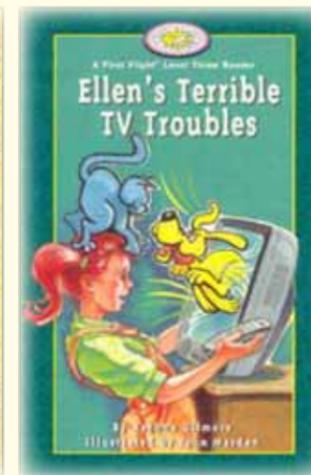
India at the age of 14, and having lived in the UK, I felt I didn't really belong in either of those places. Canada represented a culture and way of life that appealed to me." Rachna also had a love for the Anne of Green Gables books, which inspired her to go to Prince Edward Island. "I didn't live in PEI until I was in my 20s, but because I had loved the Anne books so much and reread them so many times, the landscape was familiar to me. When I went there, I felt at home and bonded with the land in a deep and visceral way."

While in PEI, Rachna worked for lawyers during the day and scribbled down stories and ideas at night. Rachna then began to submit her writing to publishers. She has since published a dozen children's books, as well a collection of adult short stories.

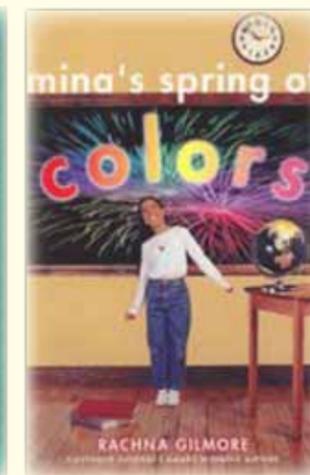
Describing herself, Rachna says, "I am an ongoing seeker of truth, a lifelong learner—I am curious, and I try to be mindful and open, to keep learning, and I strive to improve myself in all facets of my life."



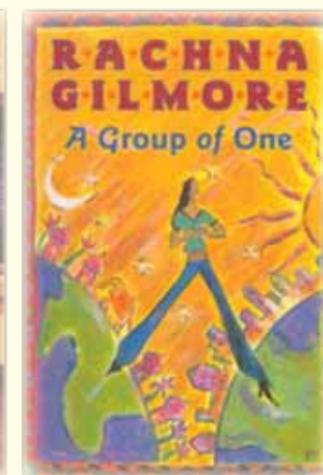
9781550415124, pb
World
Grade 3+, Chapter Book, Science, Relationships
CCBC Our Choice selection



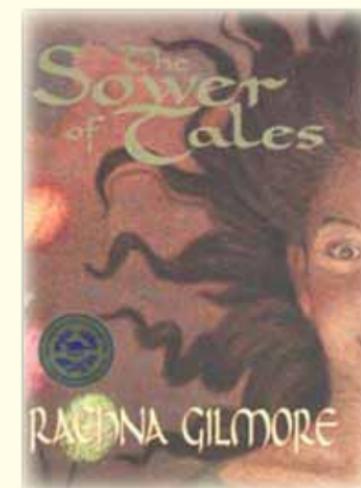
9781550415254, hc
9781550415278, pb
World
Grade 3+, Chapter Book, Media Awareness, Fanciful



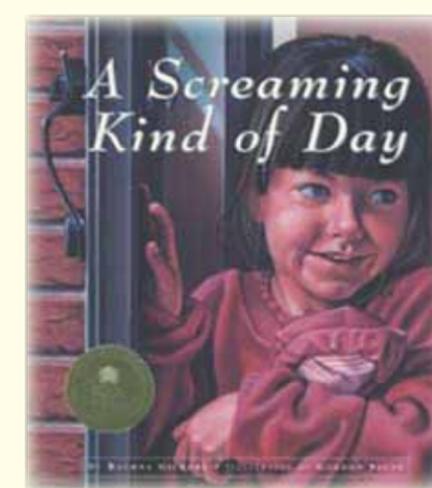
9781550415346, pb
World
Grade 4+, Juvenile Fiction, Cultural
Hackmatack Children's Choice Book Award shortlist, OLA Silver Birch Award shortlist, CCBC Our Choice starred selection



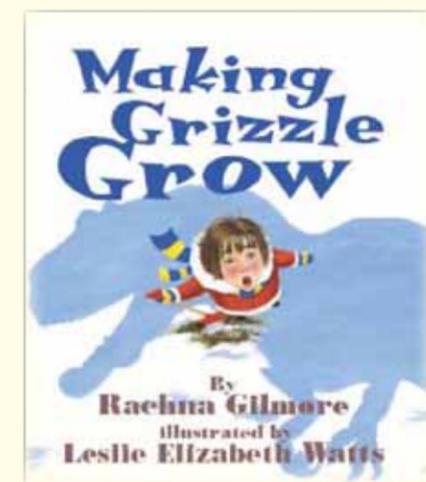
9781550419252, pb
CA only
Grade 7+, Generational Story, Cultural
Jane Addams Children's Book Award Honor Book, New York Public Library Books for the Teen Age, Bank Street College of Education Best Children's Books of the Year



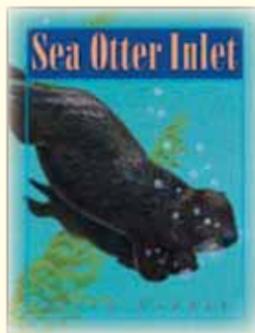
9781550419450, hc
9781550415902, pb
Eng. NA
Grade 7+, Fantasy
IODE Violet Downey Book Award, CCBC Our Choice selection, Manitoba Young Readers' Choice Award shortlist, OLA Red Maple Book Award shortlist



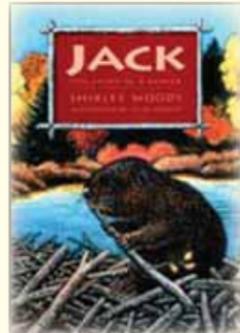
9781550415148, hc
9781550416619, pb
World ex. KR
Picture Book, Disabilities (deafness), Family Relationships
Governor General's Award for Children's Literature Text, CCBC Our Choice starred selection



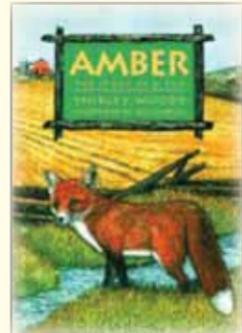
9781550418859, hc
World
Picture Book, Fanciful, Dinosaurs



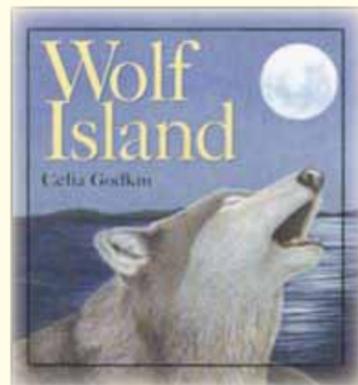
9781550410808, hc
9781550416633, pb
World
Information Storybook,
Science, Ecology, Habitat



9781550417333, hc
9781550417357, pb
World ex. KR
Grade 3+, Early Chapter
Book, Science, Habitat,
Life of a Beaver



9781550418118, hc
9781550418101, pb
World ex. KR
Grade 3+, Early Chapter
Book, Science, Habitat, Life
of a Fox
Diamond Willow Award,
Red Cedar Book Award
shortlist, Snow Willow
Award shortlist, CCBC Our
Choice selection, Children's
Crown Award shortlist



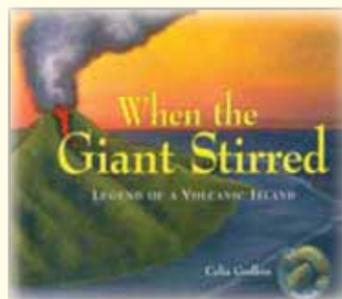
9781554550074, hc
9781554550081, pb
World ex. KR
Information Storybook, Science,
Ecology, Habitat, Animal Studies
Children's Literature Roundtable of
Canada Best Information Book Award,
Mr. Christie's Book Award Runner-up



9781550414011, hc
9781550413991, pb
World
Reader, Level 2,
Non-Fiction, Habitat,
Nature



9781550410839, hc
9781550410921, pb
9781550411256, info guide
CA only
Information Storybook,
Science, Habitat, Nature
Children's Literature
Roundtable of Canada
Honour Book Award



9781550419658, pb
World ex. KR
Information Storybook, Science,
Volcanos, Ecology, Habitat



9781550418897, hc
World ex. KR
Information Storybook, Science, Forest
Fires, Ecology, Habitat



Illustration from Wolf Island

●●●●Celia Godkin

www.canscaip.org/bios/godkinc.html ✓ Frankville, ON

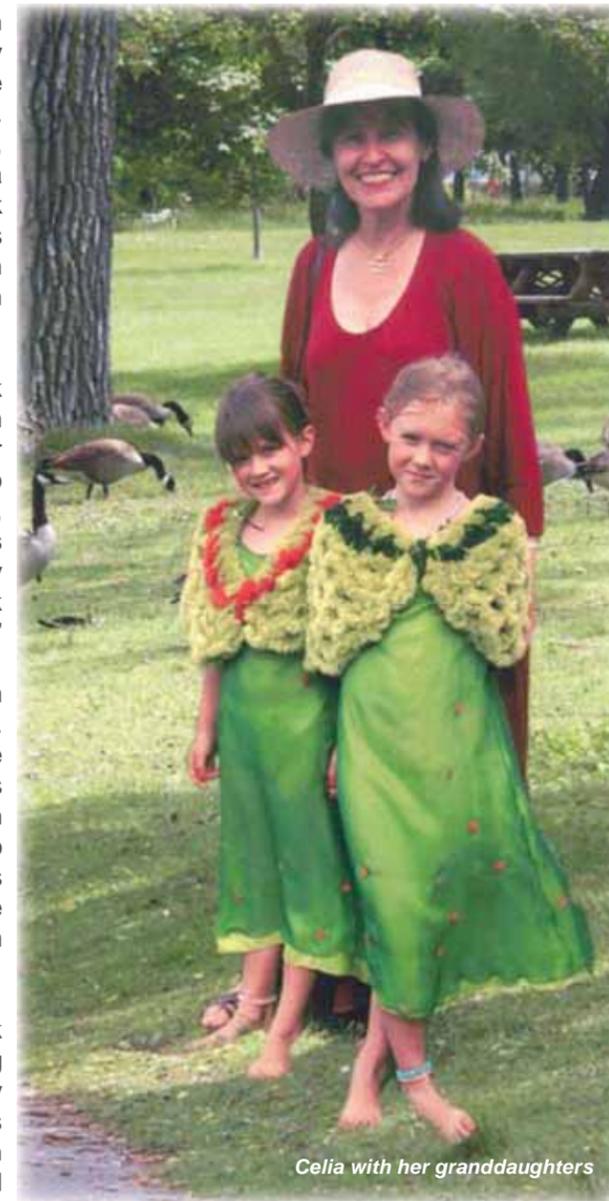
Celia Godkin was born in England and lived in Brazil. "We lived in Rio de Janeiro, possibly the most spectacularly beautiful city in the world. The mountains come right down to the sea. I remember the carnival, everyone in fancy dress, throwing streamers and dancing in the streets." Celia found it hard to adjust when her family moved back to England. "At my school in England, everyone was English. My sister and I were different, even though we were English. No one seemed very interested in Brazil or in the things that made us different."

Celia has always loved art and biology. She took a job breeding endangered reptiles to save them from extinction. "My main job was to look after the rats and mice that were bred for feeding to the snakes. I worked there for two or three years, but didn't find the work very satisfying, as I was spending much of my time cleaning out dirty animal cages. That's when I decided to go back to art school to become a scientific illustrator."

As Celia worked at scientific illustration, she began writing and illustrating children's nature books. "Children's book illustration is much more creative than textbook illustration," she says. With children's books "I read the text through and come up with ideas for the illustrations myself. Often, I also determine the medium in which the illustrations will be rendered. With textbook illustration, the art director specifies the size and content of each illustration, and usually the medium as well."

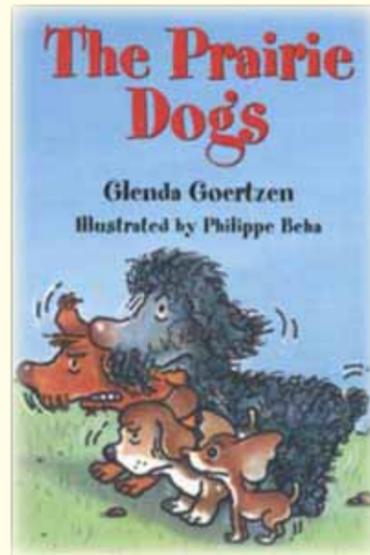
Celia was inspired to write and illustrate her book *Wolf Island* after a friend asked her to write something nature-related. "My focus of interest at university had been ecology. The central idea of ecology is that everything is connected. I was interested in finding a story that demonstrated this, and looked through the scientific literature for examples of what we now call keystone species being removed from an environment. Keystone species are those that play a central role in maintaining the balance of their ecosystem. I wrote three stories based on this theme, the first of which was *Wolf Island*."

Celia has taught drawing, painting and scientific illustration at the University of Toronto. She now lives in a small farmhouse in Eastern Ontario.

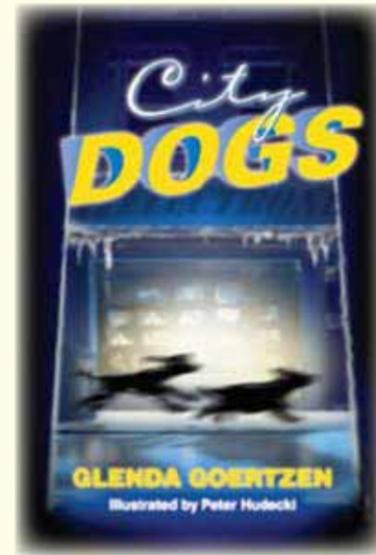


Celia with her granddaughters





9781550051131, pb
World
Middle Grade, Chapter Book,
Humour, Animal Adventures
OLA Silver Birch Award shortlist,
Diamond Willow Award shortlist



9781554550050, pb
World
Middle Grade, Chapter Book,
Humour, Animal Adventures, Sequel
to *The Prairie Dogs*

●●●● Glenda Goertzen

www.glendagoertzen.ca ✓ Prince Albert, SK

The thing Glenda loves most about writing children's books is that it makes her feel like a kid again. In fact, this Silver Birch Award nominee cannot remember a time when she wasn't writing.

Q You wrote your first novel in the ninth grade and submitted it in a contest. The experience of not winning encouraged you to write. Would you have felt less or more encouraged to write had you won?

A The fact that I had actually finished a full-length novel was tremendously encouraging to me, regardless of the fact that it didn't win. I think I would have been less encouraged had it won because I might have expected publication to come easy. Had I started submitting novels throughout high school, I might have grown discouraged by years of rejection. As it was, it was years before I attempted to get a novel published. By that time my writing skills had improved enough to give me the confidence to persist in spite of a stack of rejection letters.

Q What is the weirdest thing you have ever done while researching?

A One winter evening I dashed up and down a city walking path, pretending I was being pursued by the alien villains from my book. Luckily no one saw me.

Q You used to work in TV before leaving to work with books as a writer and a librarian. Why are books so much more fulfilling than TV?

A I found television an exciting place to work, but right from the start books were trying to lure me away from it. I often interviewed children's authors for my program and was inspired by their descriptions of a career in writing. I read books on my breaks, wrote novels on the back of discarded news scripts in my spare moments. Once I was off work I spent so much time in the local library, people thought I worked there. Finally I decided that since I was spending so much of my time on books, I should make a career of them. Now, as a catalogue technician for our regional library, I am surrounded by new books every day, and I love it. I've even had the privilege of cataloguing my own books for our public libraries.



Q What do you love most about being a writer?

A I love creating worlds where you can go anywhere and do anything. You can be the boss of your own universe.

Q How did it feel to have *The Prairie Dogs* nominated for the Silver Birch?

A It felt terrific! I was so honoured to be nominated along with so many talented authors such as Jean Little, whose books I read when I was a child. The awards ceremony was amazing. All that cheering from hundreds and hundreds of young readers!



Illustrations from *City Dogs*



••••Gena K. Gorrell

✓ Toronto, ON



Gena visiting the mud-men of Papua New Guinea

Gena K. Gorrell didn't believe she could write a book. But the author of the acclaimed *North Star to Freedom* has proven herself wrong.

Q You work as an editor in addition to writing. Do you find your own work to be the hardest to edit?

A I can't edit my own work. I already know what I mean, so it looks fine to me even if it makes no sense whatever to someone else. But I do turn in an incredibly clean, tidy, well-spelled manuscript.

Q How do you choose the subjects you write about?

A I only write about things I'm curious about. I wrote a book on firefighting because a fire truck went screaming down the street and everybody turned to look, and I thought, "What do the firefighters actually do when they get there? How many of these people have any idea?" I wrote about working dogs after I saw a dog carrying a newspaper down the street and looking incredibly happy.

Q What did you learn while working on *North Star to Freedom*?

A In my Quaker childhood, I heard a pretty simple view of the evils of slavery. I was interested in understanding more of the context. After all, most

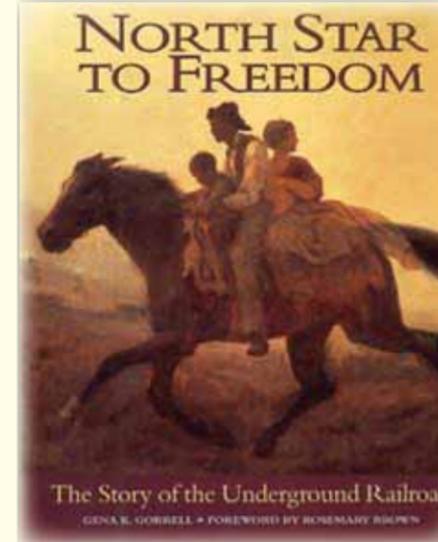
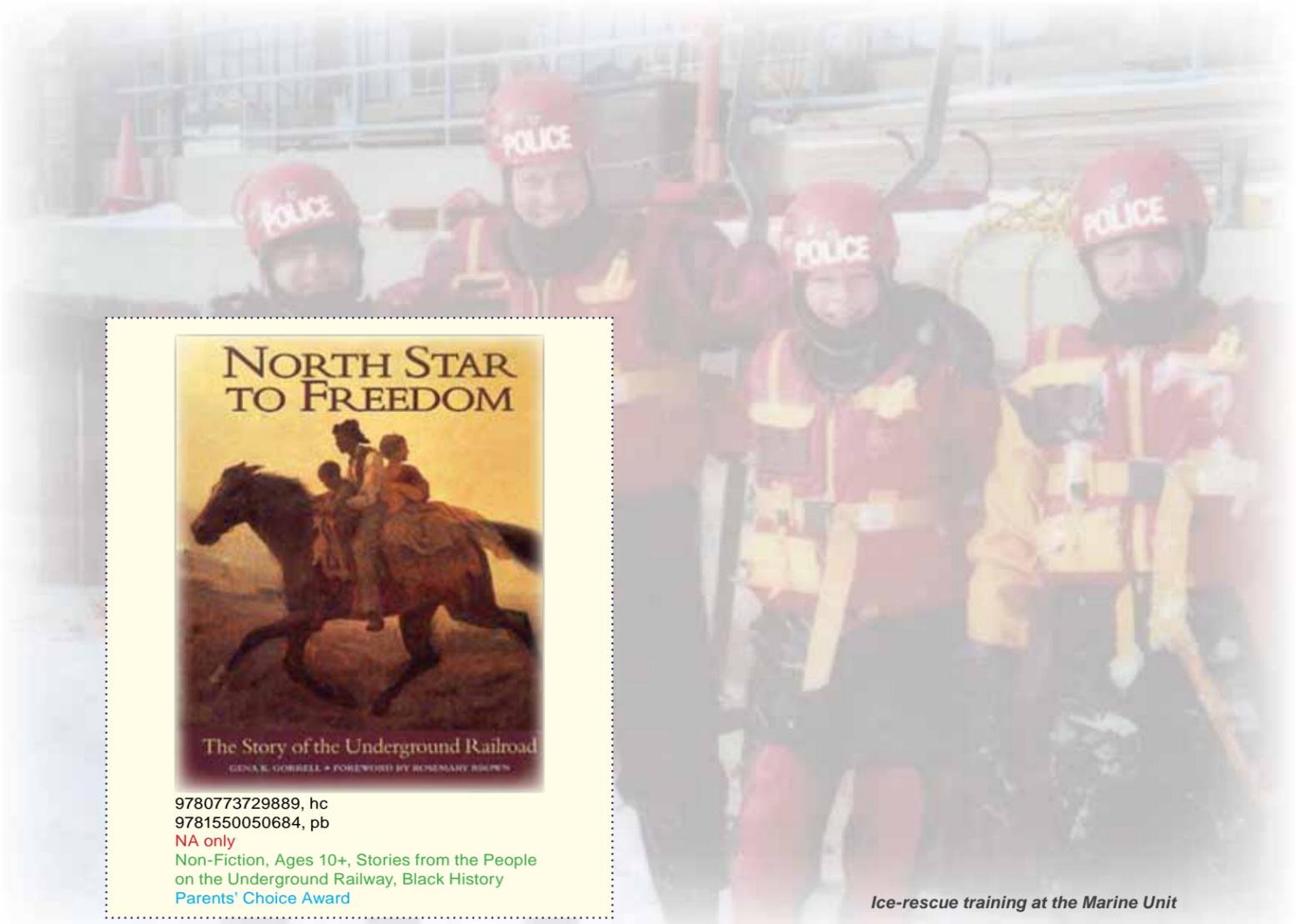
slave-owners weren't monsters; they were just ordinary citizens who accepted the rules of their society—and there were reasons why they did. I think we need to understand why people sometimes do things that seem unspeakably wrong to others.

Q How did you become involved with the auxiliary police?

A I got fed up hearing snarky putdowns about police. I don't mean about individual officers, but about police in general. When people do a tough, dangerous job for you—a job you wouldn't think of doing yourself—you have an obligation to back them up. I was with the Marine Unit for fourteen very interesting years, and I'd be there still, but I can't handle the physical demands any more.

Q How did you become an expert diver?

A My husband made me. I was positive that I couldn't do it and that I'd hate it but he insisted that I at least try. And I loved it! And that made me work on my swimming, and the swimming helped me get into the Marine Unit. You never know what will lead to what. Diving isn't for everyone, but I think everybody should try snorkeling. It's a different world down there!



9780773729889, hc
9781550050684, pb
NA only
Non-Fiction, Ages 10+, Stories from the People on the Underground Railway, Black History Parents' Choice Award

Ice-rescue training at the Marine Unit





●●●● Georgia Graham

www.georgiagram.com ✓ Lacombe, AB

Georgia Graham has mastered the art of chalk pastel. She has 12 drawers full of thousands of different colours. "I have the colours categorized," Georgia says. "One drawer is for sky blues, one for cold blue, another for fleshy colours, then one for warm greys and so on." She believes pastel provides both a thickness and a richness, perfect for adding the tiny details she says are so necessary for children's illustrating.

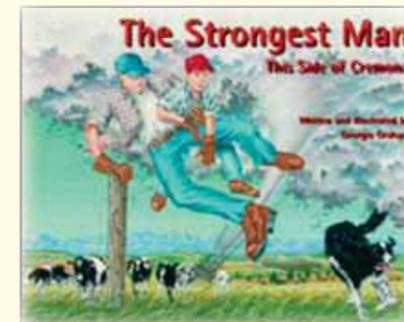
Georgia developed a real passion for art and illustration during the pop-art movement of the 1950s and '60s. It was an infatuation that translated easily to children's literature. "I fell in love with the illustrations of Maurice Sendak, Errol Le Cain and Kit Williams. That was when I got the fever."

Georgia's illustrations often portray the beauty of rural Alberta, where she lives. "I want to convey to the rest of the country how diverse Alberta's landscape is, from the towering Rocky Mountains to the pathwork prairies to rugged ranch land. I have a lot of fun depicting our big, wide Alberta skies." She

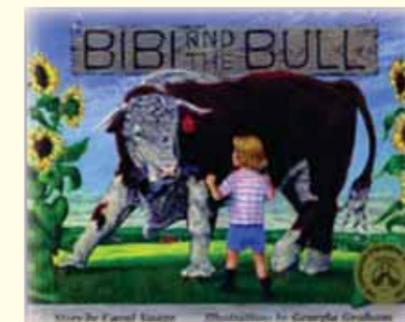
also wants to capture portraits of the farm and ranch people of the province, whom she considers to be the salt of the earth.

A Team Like No Other was written and illustrated by Georgia. "The illustrations were much more time consuming than the writing," she admits. "But the story must have a strong structure, like a skeleton, to hold the artwork." Georgia describes the differences between illustrating someone else's book and illustrating her own: "As I write a story, I see it visually, in my imagination. When an editor gives me someone else's manuscript, it takes me a little longer to gather my ideas. Also, when I illustrate someone else's story, I'm always worried that the author will not be happy with it. The only thing I can guarantee to the author is that my illustrations will not be what she visualized when she wrote the story."

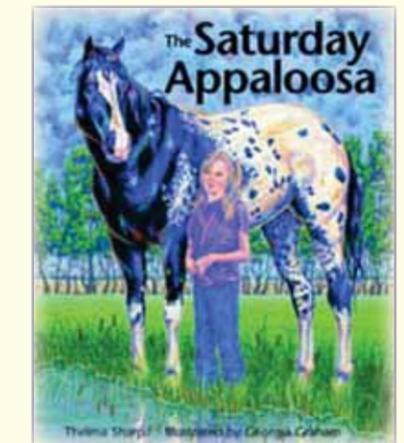
Georgia travels across Alberta, speaking to approximately 20,000 children each year. She is married with two kids.



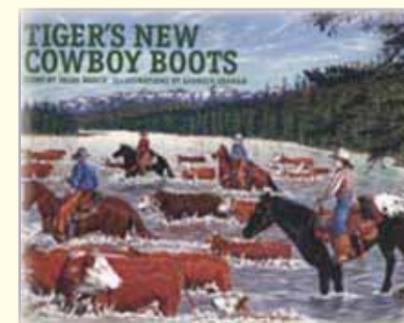
9780889951822, pb
World
Picture Book, Science, Weather (tornadoes), Family Relationships



9780889951785, pb
World
Picture Book, Family, Farm



9780889952133, hc
World
Picture Book, Generational Story, Grandmother, Horses
CCBC Our Choice selection



9780889951532, hc
9780889951815, pb
World
Picture Book, Cattle Herding, Friendship
CCBC Outstanding Book, Alberta Children's Book of the Year Award, Alberta Book Illustration of the Year Award



9780889952904, hc
9780889953604, pb
World
Picture Book, Arctic Story, Animals (dog sled), Adventure
CBC Radio One Sounds Like Canada Recommended Title, Alberta Children's Book of the Year Award shortlist



Illustration from *The Strongest Man This Side of Cremona*

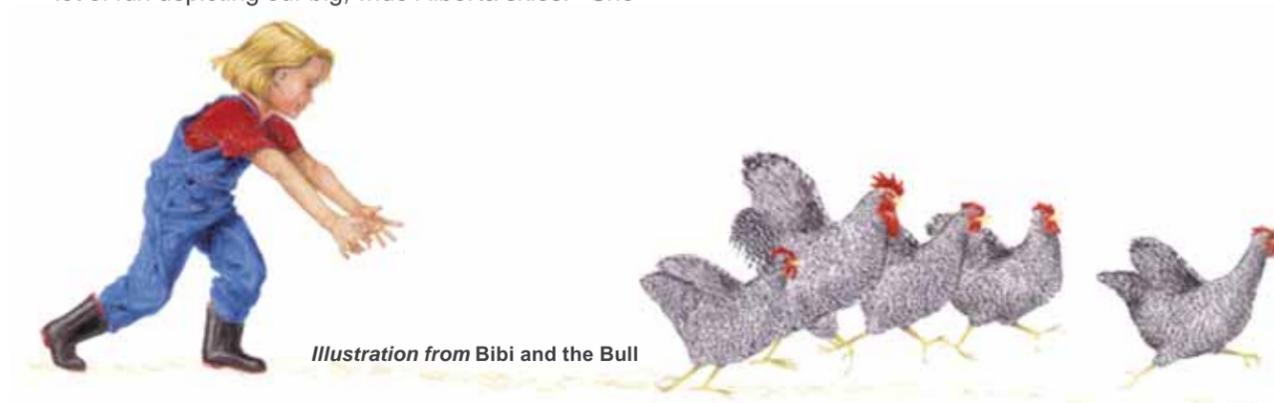


Illustration from *Bibi and the Bull*

●●●● Linda Granfield

www.lindagranfield.com ✓ Toronto, ON



Linda Granfield started her writing career on the branches of a neighbour's apple tree. Inspired by the character of Jo March in *Little Women*, Linda carried her own small notebook, but made do with the apple tree because her house had no garret. Linda moved from Massachusetts to Canada to pursue a Ph.D. in Victorian Literature at the University of Toronto.

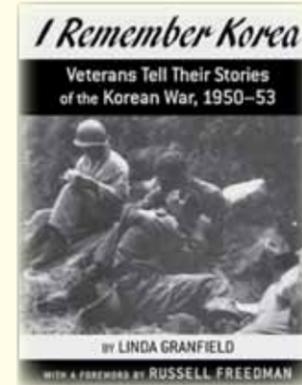
Known to some young readers as The Poppy Lady for her book about John McCrae's poem "In Flanders Fields," Linda writes to honour veterans and share their stories with young readers. Linda's enthusiasm for war history and sharing it with young readers is evident in her observations about Lieutenant Colonel John McCrae. "I began my study of 'In Flanders Fields' knowing nothing about its creator. I was able to see him as more than a poet: he was a storyteller, an artist, a doctor, an avid traveller, and, most importantly to him, a soldier."

"I would rather have a long, leisurely dinner (corned beef and cabbage with some gingerbread for dessert) with people from history: figures like McCrae, John Magee, Annie Oakley, Thomas Jefferson and Thomas Edison, Banting and Best (imagine that science talk!), Eleanor Roosevelt and Charles Dickens's wife."

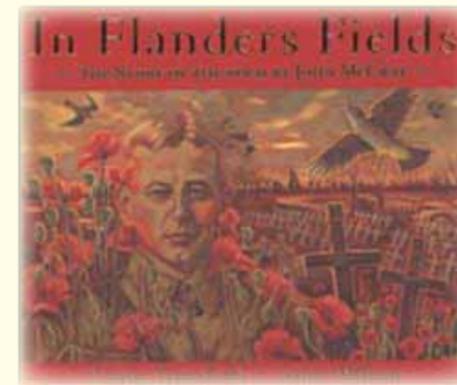
Linda is conscientious about maintaining a careful objectivity when writing about history and creating vivid snapshots for young readers. "My task is to help young readers understand why certain decisions were made in the past. It is not my place to pass any judgment on those decisions long after they were made."



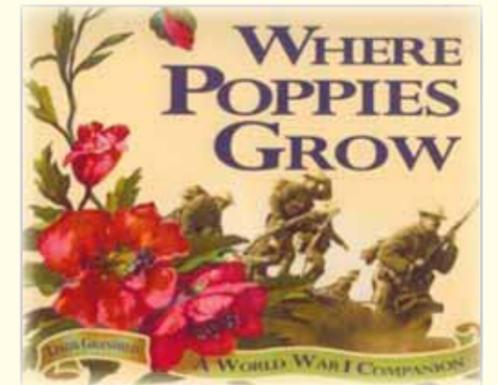
This seed packet from 1918 was named "Flanders" because of the First World War and the association with the flowers in France.



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Illustration from In Flanders Fields

