

BRIDGING

Adoff, Arnold

Love Letters

ISBN 0590484788

The rhythms of this master poet's language are evident on every page of his many publications. The poems written for this ode to love and Valentines each stand alone, with carefully designed collage illustrations to exemplify the feelings that one person has for another...many of which can only be shared anonymously. The shy vulnerability of the writers is endearing and might encourage readers to try their hand at writing some poems of their own.

 Bailey, Linda**Stanley's Party**

ISBN 1553377680

You've never met a dog like Stanley. He loves his people, but he just can't abide by all the rules that they foist upon him when they go out...and going out seems to be their favourite pastime. Stanley tries to be good, but there are so many enticements! He loves music, the contents of the refrigerator, and he wants to share his good fortune with his friends. Unbeknownst to him, his people come home one evening earlier than expected and Stanley is left to take responsibility for his actions

Bang, Molly

My Light

ISBN 043948961X

Were it not for the sun and its energy, where would we be? In the hands of a skilled artist and writer, electricity can be made worthy of further study, even for our youngest listeners. Molly Bang has created a gem of a book that helps students of science understand the concept of electric power and how it makes our present lives possible. She tells her story in the sun's voice, regaling readers with the wonders of our closest star. The illustrations are luminous and the afterword reflects how an interest can become an obsession, as she tries to pare down all that she has learned from her research.

 Bouchard, David**Voices from the Wild**

ISBN 0811814629

The premise for this wonderful book of poetry is uncommon to say the least. It involves the five senses, an artist, and a host of incredible animals. Each one, chosen for its spectacular sensory merits, vies for the artist's attention while trying to convince him that it deserves pride of place as the artist's model. The rhythm of the words is not lost on listeners who love to play the guessing game that evolves while sharing this lovely book. Always a hit at reading times, it will be well worn before you know it.

 Bowers, Vivien**That's Very Canadian**

ISBN 1897066058

What better way to share all that you know about your home country than to write a witty and inspired report on it! That's just what Rachel does in this fine book. From the loonie and twonie to Mounties and toques, she wants her readers to know all that she knows about Canada. Canadian symbols, both provincial and national, are here; as well as many of those other signs that make us uniquely Canadian. A great way to fill your students' heads with information about their homeland and its many facets.

🍁 Busby, Peter

First to Fly

ISBN 0439987946

A look at the Wright Brothers and their lifelong interest in flight, this book's oversized pages are filled with authentic photos, short essay boxes containing a myriad of information, and detail-enriched diagrams. A personal look at these quiet, determined brothers allows the reader a chance to see their struggles and triumphs as they learned the intricacies of flight, prior to building their first motorized flying machine. The back matter includes everything needed for further study. A brilliant combination of text and visuals...bravo!

Cole, Joanna

The Magic School Bus

ISBN 0590446878

Many readers have appreciated reading *The Magic School Bus at the Waterworks*, a book that exemplified quality nonfiction writing. Joanna Cole provides an enjoyable storyline with accurate and detailed research information, presented in a fresh and intriguing manner. This gives aspiring scientists a model for presentation rather than the traditional reporting format. Bravo! Cole has since written ten further books using the same design. Each is as useful and wonderful as the first. They cover such topics as the solar system, inside the earth, dinosaurs, oceans, electricity, beehives, hurricanes, the human body, and the senses.

Dahl, Roald

Danny, Champion of the World

ISBN 0141301147

Many educators love reading Roald Dahl books aloud. He has such a way with words and wacky characters. Danny is certainly a favourite Dahl book. This story of the love between a father and his son has fast-paced action, injustice, and daring and obstreperous villains. Danny is indeed a champion and the events that keep you turning the pages will leave your listeners begging for more.

DiCamillo, Kate

Because of Winn-Dixie

ISBN 0763616052

Oh, that we all could find a Winn-Dixie! When Opal India Buloni and her father move to small-town Florida, she is quietly in search of family and a sense of belonging. She goes into a grocery store for needed supplies and comes out with a scruffy, smiling dog that will alter the course of her life. It turns out that Winn-Dixie is looking for the same things as Opal. What DiCamillo has in store for her readers is an amazing and unforgettable cast of offbeat characters who bring an end to Opal's lonely existence and help her face the abandonment of her mother when she was just 3 years old.

🍁 Ellis, Sarah

Several Lives of Orphan Jack

ISBN 0888996187

Otherjack is an orphan whose greatest love is words and whose finest possession is an old, shabby dictionary. He is unhappy with his lot in life and when he is hired as a bookkeeper, he believes that all his dreams have come true. Thinking he will be the protector of books, his illusions are soon shattered and he determines that his path lies in being an idea man, a job seemingly perfect for him. Ellis' love of language and wordplay is evident throughout this engaging story of a young man who follows his heart and makes his own dreams come true.

Florian, Douglas

Omnibeasts

ISBN 0152050388

Fans of Doug Florian's humorous and quirky writing will look to this compilation as a chance to revisit some of their old favourites. Selected from seven previous books, each of which dealt with an order of the animal kingdom, these poems reflect the artistic charm and witty writing that make Florian a new favourite with the poetry crowd. His ability to focus on fun and his use of inspired wordplay will have you searching for all that he has written.

🍁 Gaiman, Neil **The Day I Swapped my Dad for Two Goldfish** ISBN 0060587032

Are there times when you would consider trading a member of your family? Dad seems to enjoy reading the paper and not much else; so, Mike decides to swap him for two goldfish. When repercussions from the incident are threatened, he is forced to go get Dad back. Oops! The friend has further swapped him and it takes a great deal of patience and persistence to finally find him. Mother insists that he never swap Dad again, but she doesn't say anything about his sister!

George, Christine O.

Fold me a Poem

ISBN 0152025014

A youthful artist, a pile of brilliantly coloured origami papers, and a lot of imagination set the stage for this exceptional book of poems, written in the tradition of haiku. George's signature poetry comprises pithy attention to the details of the subject being presented. Here she introduces us to a young child whose imagination soars while paper folding a world of play. Eloquently presented, it helps us see that there is much to be discovered when a young mind is allowed to wander free.

Hurst, Carol Otis

Rocks in his Head

ISBN 0060294035

A nostalgic memoir of a father who loved rocks and made rock collecting his passion throughout his lifetime will encourage readers to follow their dreams and make a life doing what they love to do. Filled with fine drawings that harken us back to an earlier time, we know the joy that Hurst's Dad felt in gathering and displaying his many finds. Eventually the 'rocks in his pocket and rocks in his head' led to a new and fulfilling career.

Kerley, Barbara

The Dinosaurs of Waterhouse Hawkins

ISBN 0439114942

Can you imagine a time when we had no idea what a dinosaur looked like? Well, such was Victorian England and lucky we are that a man gave his life to providing a realistic look at the monstrous creatures that continue to fascinate so many. Waterhouse Hawkins spent his life creating models and drawing images of dinosaurs. He even hosted a New Year's bash in his constructed model of an iguanodon. A picture book biography of distinction, this book is worth a good, long look.

🍁 Major, Kevin

Eh? to Zed

ISBN 0889952728

So, you want to know about Canada, eh? Here are some of our most treasured and familiar terms set in rhyming couplets and accompanied by varied, yet precise, images created in mixed media montages to aptly show those things that make us truly distinctive in the greater world. Filled with details and some obscurity, this alphabet book can be read by a younger audience but will be most appreciated by those who have some knowledge of Canadian history, geography, and culture. It begs to be revisited. The author's endnotes and the illustrator's notes provide perspective for the choices made.

Morrison, Gordon

Pond

ISBN 061810271X

A sketchbook in the best sense of the word, this lovely work invites the reader to participate in the life of a glacial pond throughout the four seasons. Told as a story, together with many watercolour illustrations and pencil drawings, it includes additional information at every turn. It begins in late winter and then bursts forth into early spring with the return of a host of creatures and plant life. Readers will be drawn to this fine book again and again as they appreciate the abundance of information presented about a unique habitat.

Palatini, Margie

Piggie Pie

ISBN 0395866189

The pigs that live at MacDonald's Farm are just too smart for their own britches. When Gritch the Witch comes searching for piggies to make a pie, they are quick to disguise themselves and, thus, save their little pork butts. Hilarity ensues as they dress up and confuse the wily witch who is hungry, horrid, and hateful. But, the piggies are too sharp for her and it isn't long until a tired and decrepit wolf's warning has Gritch looking elsewhere for a scrumptious morsel.

Polacco, Patricia

The Keeping Quilt

ISBN 0689844476

The traditions of Polacco's family are never more prevalent as they are in this wonderful story of the keeping quilt passed from one generation to another, beginning with the arrival of her great-grandmother from Russia in the late nineteenth century. The only colour in the telling comes from Great-Gramma Anna's bright babushka and dress. They are incorporated into the quilt that will endure through changes in fashion and custom; it remains the thread that links the family through good times and bad. Polacco's truly expressive characters add to the charm of this lovely family story.

Silverstein, Shel

Where the Sidewalk Ends

ISBN 0060572345

Many readers have taken great pleasure from reading the hilarious adventures of so many of Silverstein's weird and wacky characters. In fact, many readers are only too happy to recite *The Crocodile's Toothache*, *Lazy Jane*, *Spaghetti* and *Melinda Mae* to all who will listen, and at a moment's notice. If you can, find the cassette that accompanies this wonderful book and hear the poems in Silverstein's distinctive voice.

Spier, Peter

People

ISBN 038524469X

Almost wordless, this incredibly detailed book remains popular twenty years after it was first published. In it, Spier provides a cornucopia of faces and forms from each continent. He is expert at showing the diversity that exists and helping each of us recognize the true community of spirit that resides within our differences. What a wonderful jumping-off point for children to discuss all that makes us unique and remarkable inhabitants of Earth.

 Taylor, Joanne

There You Are

ISBN 0887766587

World War II is over and life is returning to normal for the thirteen families who live in the Margaree Valley of Cape Breton. Not so for Jeannie Shaw, a 12-year-old independent spirit, whose lonely life would be so much better if she had a real friend with whom to share it. No such person seems apparent. When hardship hits and her happy family life is threatened by near tragedy, Jeannie finds the friend she has been seeking in a most surprising place. Wonderfully drawn characters, an admirable setting, and moments that are carefully constructed make this fine novel worthy of thorough study.

 Wallace, Mary

The Inuksuk Book

ISBN 1895688914

Mary Wallace consulted with Inuit elders and other experts before writing this exemplary book that introduces readers to the traditional stone structure used for centuries to ensure communication for the people of the North. Ten Inuksuk shapes are brought to life through archival photographs and exquisite silk paintings. Some provide direction while others point out good fishing spots or act as a memorial to an important person or event. Step by step instructions are provided for construction of your own Inuksuk. This is an excellent resource as an introduction to a worthy culture, or a harsh environment.

Weisner, David

Sector 7

ISBN 0395746566

A master of saying as little as possible when the story can be shown, Weisner again takes to the skies to bring 'readers' an imaginative and entertaining flight of fancy. One young participant in a class trip to the Empire State Building has never had it so good! When the building is enveloped in fog, he is whisked away to a cloud station in the upper atmosphere. What happens there will have kids laughing with delight and using their collective imaginations to make discoveries beyond their wildest dreams. This book is testament to the fact that the more you look, the more you see.

 Wiebe, Rudy

Hidden Buffalo

ISBN 088995285X

Combining lush prairie landscapes and a traditional Cree tale, Rudy Wiebe and Michael Lonechild have created a story that is memorable and enlightening. They make evident the Cree belief that dreams can be a culminating event in preserving life for their people. Sky Running is watching for buffalo, despite their apparent disappearance. When he finds a buffalo shaped stone and keeps it by his side during sleep, he dreams a dream that leads his tribe to the land of plentiful buffalo, through the Badlands to the banks of the Red Deer River.
