
EXPANDING

Arnosky, Jim **Crinkleroot's Guide to Knowing Animal Habitats** ISBN 689835388

Jim Arnosky is a master at making the world of nature attractive and accessible for his readers. He sets a tone of respect and honour for all the creatures and habitats he finds in each of the places he visits on his many journeys of discovery. His accurate sketches, detailed captions, authentically researched labels, and unparalleled love of all things natural are evident in his many fine nonfiction books. He encourages readers to look with an artist's eye at the world and to chronicle what they see in personal sketchbooks.

Avi **Poppy** ISBN 038072769

Want a new readaloud that will have kids sitting on the edges of their seats? If you haven't discovered Poppy and the other resident creatures of Dimwood Forest, you're in for a real treat. Poppy is a tiny deer mouse that loves and loses a jive-talking mate named Ragweed at the hands of the resident despot, Ocax the horned owl. Ocax promises safe passage to a new home so long as he is unconditionally obeyed. This flies in the face of Poppy's independent nature. After Ocax devours Ragweed, Poppy takes matters into her own hands and eventually leads her large extended family to a new home. Powerful characters, great action, and further adventures make this series a sure hit.

Bang, Molly **The Grey Lady and the Strawberry Snatcher** ISBN 0689803818

The grey lady loves strawberries; but so does the little imp who chooses to dog her every move in hopes of stealing her treasure. No matter where she goes, he is there. Managing to elude him in ingenious ways, the wily woman leads him into a dark and deep wood where danger lurks. A surprise ending eases the tension and the story finishes on a happy note. This Caldecott Honor book is indicative of Molly Bang's artistic talent and her ability to tell a suspenseful tale with no need for words. Children will return to this book throughout childhood to tell, once more, the story of the grey lady and her love for the bright, sweet, red berries.

 Bourgeois, Paulette **Oma's Quilt** ISBN 1553376250

Oma is not keen to go to the retirement home. She has a lifetime of wonderful memories of her life on Maple Street. Her granddaughter, Emily, is trying to make the transition easier with one last walk through Oma's house and a talk about all the things that have happened there. It doesn't help. Oma is determined not to like her new home. While Mom and Emily gather up the threads of the household she is leaving, Emily decides that a quilt of memories might be just the thing her grandmother needs to help her adjust to a new life.

 Bowers, Vivien**Only in Canada**

ISBN 1894379381

Have you any idea what you don't know about Canada? When you finish reading this wacky, wonderful book from the *WOW Canada!* series, you will be much better informed. Moose and Goose present a wealth of information about our geography, our history, our natural world, and the many Canadians who have made a name for themselves by doing quite remarkable and courageous things. The format is ideal to keep readers reading and filling their heads with what has been gathered and presented in a distinctive and unusual way.

 Carter, Anne Laurel**My Home Bay**

ISBN 0889952841

A family move from one side of Canada (Vancouver) to the other side (Mahone Bay, Nova Scotia) is the premise for this quiet, engaging story. Saying goodbye to British Columbia and all things familiar is unsettling for Gwyn. Their long demanding trip takes its toll, and only three promises make the move tolerable. As the days pass, the promises are kept and new experiences and friends bring solace to the family. Gwyn comes to accept her new environs with a brightness of spirit. Her Christmas gift is the perfect addition to her house near the sea. The soft watercolour illustrations in a pastel palette give the reader a true sense of the wonder that awaited them in 'my home bay'.

Cooper, Helen

Pumpkin Soup

ISBN 0552545104

This book can help young readers understand how proficient and gifted writers teach us reading lessons. This story of three friends who live companionably together in a small white cabin, sharing household tasks and quiet living, is infused with a variety of strategies that guide the reader to success and total enjoyment. When Duck messes with the rhythm of the home, Squirrel and Cat are angry and Duck, disturbed by that wrath, leaves in a huff. Only when he does not return do his housemates dare to imagine what they have driven him to do. The race is on to find their friend.

Davies, Nicola

One Tiny Turtle

ISBN 0744594014

Tony Stead has labeled books of this type 'faction'. It makes perfect sense, for it is a book that combines a winning story with some interesting and well-researched facts. In a pleasing tale, Davies introduces us to the loggerhead turtle and her life in the ocean where she swims for thirty years, until one day she returns to the beach where she was born to lay her eggs. In poetic and lovely language she engages readers and leaves them charmed by the turtle whose arduous travels we have shared until that night on the beach. Curving lines of text in smaller font add to the information provided in the story of this grand sea creature.

Fleischman, Paul

Weslandia

ISBN 0763610526

With summer vacation rearing its ugly head, Wesley is just not sure what he will do. Leave it to this bright, focused young man (oft labeled a nerd) to establish his own civilization and name it for himself. A staple crop is the source of all that becomes Weslandia. It is used for shelter, food, clothing, and protection from the sun's rays and distasteful insects. Wesley's world is quite remarkable and the reader will pore over Hawkes' illustrations of that space, slightly askew and remarkably like Wesley himself. Wes is independent and accomplished and he pursues a dream that many would consider worthy; in the end, he attracts those who were his adversaries.

Florian, Douglas

Summersaults

ISBN 0060292679


Doug Florian is currently working on his ode to spring (*Handsprings*) as a follow-up to this and two other seasonal tributes (*Winter Eyes* and *Autumblings*). He established a familiar format from the get-go, using a title poem, followed by two poems extolling his seasonal likes and panning seasonal dislikes. He is a poet who helps convince kids that they 'can do it'...they, too, can write poetry. His poetry comes from his heart and is a result of experiencing the world through all five senses. Here is a wonderful poet to emulate...a new class mentor.

George, Kristine

Old Elm Speaks

ISBN 0395876117

Kristine George does, indeed, have a remarkable way of saying the most beautiful things. Her second book of poems, written simply and in varied poetic forms, pays homage to the mighty tree. Each tiny gem provides a sense of delight in nature that can only be felt and described when one gives undivided attention to the world as we pass through it. Trees play a tremendously important role in our lives and George is quick to remind us of that...in poems that reflect her love and reverence. Pair this lovely book with Silverstein's *The Giving Tree* and readers will come away with a renewed appreciation for these majestic wonders.

 Highway, Tomson

Caribou Song

ISBN 0002255227

The first of a planned trilogy about the vanishing life of the people of the North, this book is a worthy addition to aboriginal literature collections. The other titles are *Dragonfly Kites* and *Fox on the Ice*. Cody and Joe spend their time following the caribou herd, with their parents and their much-loved dog, Ootsie. Their adventures are chronicled in both Cree and English text, and are accompanied by glistening oil paintings that evoke the spiritual beauty of their northern home. From the spring caribou hunt, through a glorious summer catching dragonflies to chase through tundra meadows, to winter and a wild ride with the sled dogs hot on the trail of a distant fox, Joe and Cody live a charmed life in the glorious world of northern Manitoba.

Pfeffer, Wendy

A Log's Life

ISBN 0689806361

Learning about life cycles couldn't be more fun! When an oak tree is toppled in the forest during a storm, its life changes and so do the lives of many of the creatures that find food and shelter within it. As it decays, it becomes home to a multitude of living things, such as ants, mushrooms, porcupines, and salamanders. Each finds what it needs within the new ecosystem created by the dying tree. When it finally becomes a mound of rich black earth, and home to an acorn, the cycle renews itself. Excellent dimensional collages hide the many creatures that find life there and give reason for close inspection from all young readers.

Polacco, Patricia

Thunder Cake

ISBN 0698115813

Patricia Polacco looks to her childhood and conjures up magical memories of the many events that have shaped her life and the people who have been her heroes. She honours the memory of her grandmother in many of her published works. In this one, Babushka helps her granddaughter overcome her fear of thunder. Anxiety about the approaching storm has the young granddaughter hiding under her bed. Baba resorts to what she knows best to distract her loved one. In the time it takes to gather all the ingredients for a thunder cake, the storm has passed and our young heroine has learned some very important lessons about herself...thanks to Baba!

Popov, Nikolai

Why?

ISBN 1558589961

In an idyllic meadow a frog sits smelling a pretty posy. Without provocation a mouse, wielding an umbrella, sets upon the frog and steals his flower. The frog seeks help and returns to beat the mouse for stealing his flower. And so it goes until there is nothing left of the meadow but mayhem and destruction. In the final frame, the frog sits staring despondently at his flower while the mouse holds a battered and beaten umbrella. Why? Words could not do this wordless book justice.

 Reid, Barbara

The Subway Mouse

ISBN 0439952239

Just when you think Barbara Reid cannot outdo her last effort, she does. Her new book shows her remarkable ability to create worlds in one medium and make it look as if she is using many. When life in the subway falls short of his expectations and dreams of finding the legendary Tunnel's End fill his every thought, Nib decides to begin a search. As he travels, he passes numerous other stations, tunnels, and some sleazy characters. After meeting Lola, they travel on together. When all seems lost, they spy a starry sky and the hunt for a better place ends. The artwork is filled with images that could NOT be created with plasticine!

Sayre, April Pulley

Stars Beneath Your Bed

ISBN 0060571888

Have you ever wondered where dust comes from? The author of this informative and absorbing book has done her research and is quick to let us know that the dust we see everywhere has been around for centuries. Dust is made up of many and sundry items and we can find it everywhere...every day. Without dust, we would not see the intense colour of sunrise and sunset. Without dust, raindrops would not form. Then, where would we be? Dust comes from space, the sea, our clothes, and our skin...you name it; it creates dust. No wonder we can't catch up with it!

Schaefer, Lola

What's Up, What's Down?

ISBN 0060297573

It looks like any other book, but that is where the similarities end. First, the reader must turn the book on its end and begin by looking up. As we proceed from below the earth and make our way ever upward, we are rewarded with a return journey when we go as high as we can go...the moon. Then, turn the book over and begin the descent from neverending sky to ocean bottom. It is a truly intriguing way to look at the natural world. Combine that with stunning lyrical text and meticulous illustrations fashioned in chalk and you have your hands on an award winner.

Singer, Marilyn

Tough Beginnings

ISBN 0805061649

You thought you had it tough when you were a baby...you had to cry when you were hungry, scared, or lonely. You want to know tough? Check out the double page descriptions of 13 baby animals whose introduction to life is no piece of cake. Each spread describes one baby in detailed information boxes, with accompanying artwork that is often dramatic and consistently appealing to young readers. In the end spread, Singer adds ten additional babies. This conversational text, despite its familiarity and lilting tone, makes life seem pretty easy for we humans. Ah, survival of the fittest!

Sis, Peter

Madlenka

ISBN 0888994125

Peter Sis was inspired to write this story of family life using his multi-ethnic New York neighbourhood as the backdrop. At the centre is Madlenka...a young, inquisitive, friendly child who cannot wait to share her lost tooth experience with all of her friends and neighbours. As she skips joyfully around the block, we are privy to the talk, the textures, the cultures, and the enveloping friendship she experiences at each turn.