

FLUENT

Ackerman, Diane


Animal Sense

ISBN 0375823840

A book of 15 compact and concise poems, *Animal Sense* is quietly funny while sharing a vault of information for the animals chosen. Three fresh and vivid poems for each sense expand our minds and inspire us to take a closer look at the focus animal. The imagery is indeed sensorial and soothing to our spirits. The pictures are complimentary and honour the animals through careful observation of each in its own habitat. Compare this to *Voices of the Wild* (Bouchard, 1996) for an interesting and useful way of presenting research notes.

 Bogart, Jo Ellen
Emily Carr: At the Edge of the World ISBN 0887766404

I knew little about Emily Carr before I read this book. I would likely have recognized her work, but I would not have known the woman I came to know at the talented hands of Jo Ellen Bogart and Maxwell Newhouse. A biography that will gain the interest of anyone attracted to art and artists, Canadian history, and women's rights, Bogart does an admirable job of bringing this misunderstood artist to our attention. Despite many setbacks, Carr was able to realize many of her dreams through her art, and then her writing. She lived on the edge when living on the edge was a most uncomfortable place to be. And she succeeded!

 Bouchard, David
The Song Within my Heart

ISBN 1551925591


The rhythmic beat of the drum and the chanting tone of the powwow are clear in this lyrical tribute to a man's grandmother, who taught him to listen to his own heart when trying to understand the music of this native celebration. Allen Sapp was largely influenced by the teachings of his grandmother while growing up on a Saskatchewan reservation. His beautifully vivid artwork bears testament to that. The lyric poetry honours his memories of Nokum and their life together.

Bunting, Eve

I am the Mummy Heb-Nefert

ISBN 0152024646

The power of this story comes from its first-person narrative voice, which gives it such presence and impact. Heb-Nefert describes herself as the pampered and beautiful daughter of an Egyptian monarch. When she meets the pharaoh's brother, they fall in love and she becomes a privileged wife. At death, her body is mummified...meant to retain her beauty for all eternity. Now she lies in a museum where people gawk all day long. She hears them speak and longs to tell them that she was once beautiful.

 Cumyn, Alan
After Sylvia

ISBN 0888996462

Poor Owen Skye...he's the master of mishaps, the hapless hero of a previous story, and the determined pursuer of 'Sylvia' in this second chronicle of his life and times. We met Sylvia in *The Secret Life of Owen Skye*. Now, she has moved and Owen is finding that life without her just doesn't seem worth it. He is a boy in love...and a wonderful character to boot. Owen is funny, poignant, independent, and vulnerable. He lives his life with great gusto, but is haunted by thoughts that he might be forgetting his first love in the wake of her disappearance from his life. Will he ever see her again? What can he do to ensure her return?

DiCamillo, Kate

The Tale of Despereaux

ISBN 0763617229

This tale of longing, love, and forgiveness is flawless fare for reading aloud. The first three parts of the book introduce satisfying characters whose lives converge in the fourth and final part. In elegant language filled with subtle messages for her readers, DiCamillo has fashioned a story that reads like a fairy tale...with a romantic, big-eared mouse, a perfect princess, a dastardly rat, and a wistful servant girl. Each is an outcast, filled with dreams and the desire for better days. With DiCamillo's storytelling prowess, their lives intertwine and we are left with the promise of 'happily ever after'.

🍁 Edwards, Wallace

Monkey Business

ISBN 1553374622

With a definition to begin and a more complete explanation of idioms following the text, Wallace Edwards sets us up to learn more about the intricacies of the English language than we ever thought possible, by sharpening our powers of observation. While the text is useful, the illustrations tell their own story and will win new fans for this humorous, elegant artist. The pages are filled with details that will entice readers of all ages. Then, he encourages us to look again by asking, "Did you find the monkey on every page?" You need no more invitation than that to enjoy this book AGAIN.

🍁 Ellis, Deborah

The Breadwinner

ISBN 0888994168

This powerful story will make more real the deplorable and chilling conditions that have been a way of life for many of the world's women. Parvana, a young Afghan girl, lives with her family under the oppressive rule of the Taliban. When her father is imprisoned for unknown reasons, Parvana must support her family. She does so with tenacity and great dignity. The tension is palpable, the ending hopeful. When the reading is complete, reach for *Parvana's Journey*.

George, Kristine O.

Hummingbird Nest

ISBN 0152023259

What a gem! When a hummingbird took up residence in a tree on Kristine George's patio, she decided that she would keep a poetry journal to describe the tiny summer guest. In carefully chosen words, she eloquently describes the mother as she builds and protects her nest, lays her eggs, hatches them, and cares for the tiny babies prior to their initial flights. It is with heavy hearts that the family bids these tiny helicopters adieu when they decide to strike out on their own. A wealth of information about hummingbirds is shared following the author's note at the back of this remarkable book of poetry.

Hannigan, Katherine

Ida B

ISBN 0060730242

Ida B loves her life. She spends her days learning with her mother, talking to the orchard trees, and floating rafts with notes to any who find them. Her mind is alight with curiosity and the pleasure of her surroundings. Then, her mother is diagnosed with cancer and everything changes. Mama is too tired to teach and Daddy decides to sell a part of her beloved orchard. Ida B is devastated and her reaction is swift and clear. It takes time, understanding, and a new realization that life changes and marches on before Ida B is willing to make some concessions. What a wonderful character she is...spunky, full of wit and wisdom. You need this book!

Hesse, Karen

Out of the Dust

ISBN 0590371258

Journal entries are dated over a period of two years, taking the reader through seasons that seem unchanging as the people wait for life-giving rain. While struggling with adversity and isolated by the grim reality of the Dust Bowl, Billie Jo remains a resilient female character who learns that, even altered beyond recognition, home is the best place in the world. Now, she can begin to forgive her father and herself for the sadness in their life.

🍁 Horvath, Polly

Everything on a Waffle

ISBN 0888994427

Primrose Squarp could be sad. Everyone believes her parents have been lost at sea. Not Primrose...she knows they are sitting on an island somewhere, just waiting to be rescued. Despite all the changes that affect her life and the resulting turmoil, she merrily plods on learning from each new experience and sharing it with us in her own unmatched way...she is stoic, resilient, curious, determined, and hilarious as she shares her take on the life she has been dealt. Along the way, she connects everything to food and provides a recipe for our enjoyment at the end of each chapter. You'll laugh out loud and then want to read it again.

Janeczko, Paul

That Sweet Diamond

ISBN 068980735X

I cannot imagine a clearer picture of THE summer game. Janeczko is so astute with descriptive language, fashioning provocative images of the many unique aspects of baseball. From fanatic fans to the always-confusing signals being thrown at players, both offensive and defensive, he shows us an often gentle and endearing portrait. This talented and prolific poet has created a commendable ode to summer's great game.

Johnson, Sylvia

Mapping the World

ISBN 0689818130

From clay tablets to computer imagery, this book traces the history of cartography in a way that makes it intrinsically interesting and enlightening for all readers. Maps have more to tell than how to get from one place to another. They give us a sense of the world at the time they were drawn. Clear, full-colour maps share space with well-structured, instructive writing. This book encourages thinking about the world as it has developed and the role that mapmakers have played throughout history. Budding cartographers might just get their start here...and try a first map of their own.

🍁 King, Thomas

Coyote Sings to the Moon

ISBN 1550139460

This wonderful story makes listeners laugh out loud and serves as an excellent example of a 'pourquoi' tale. When Old Woman and the animals come down to the pond to sing to the moon, Coyote asks if he might join them. They are reluctant, but allow him to do so. Moon is so disturbed by Coyote's voice that she leaves the sky. She cannot be coaxed into returning to her rightful place. When Old Woman forms a plan, she needs Coyote to help carry it out. He does his job TOO well!

Lehman, Barbara

The Red Book

ISBN 0618428585

It is amazing what a talented and creative artist can say without saying a word! In this award-winning book we see the power of story through the eyes of two children. Each is looking at a red book, and both long for friendly contact. Only when the girl takes a dangerous chance do they meet...the red book has dropped from her hand, but we are left with the knowledge that it has not told its last story.

🍁 Levine, Karen

Hana's Suitcase

ISBN 189676455X

Take a young Japanese teacher who wants to bring the story of the Holocaust to her students, add the suitcase of a young woman named Hana Brady, and combine it with the story that only one member of Hana's family lived to tell and you have this compelling true story to share with your students. Hana lived in Czechoslovakia prior to the Nazi invasion. First her mother, and then her father was taken by the Gestapo. In her suitcase are the artifacts of a changed life and her final deportation to Auschwitz. Fumiko's relentless quest to know Hana is chronicled here in alternate chapters told by brother and sister so that we all might know more about this horrifying time in history.

MacLachlan, Patricia

Painting the Wind

ISBN 0060297980

Summer is here. The painters have returned. The young boy welcomes these mentors he hopes will help him do what he has not yet done...paint the wind. It seems an impossible task. He has tried again and again. As he closely observes the visitors and considers each artist's technique (while noticing each one's equally exceptional dog), he gains confidence and knowledge. When his art hangs alongside the others at the summer's end show, he is finally able to feel great pride in his creative endeavours.

Morpurgo, Michael

Kensuke's Kingdom

ISBN 0439519813

When Michael and his dog, Stella, are washed overboard during a violent storm, their end seems imminent. As luck would have it, they wash up on the shore of an island that appears to have no human inhabitants. Wild gibbons, voracious insects, and overwhelming heat might mean the end for them. When food is left for them to find, Michael realizes they are not alone. It is not long until he meets Kensuke, a Japanese doctor who has lived a solitary life on the island since the Second World War. Improbable? Perhaps. Fantastic? Perhaps. Compelling? Entertaining? Memorable? Yes! Yes! and Yes!

Paulsen, Gary

Harris and Me

ISBN 0440409942

Oh, that Gary Paulsen! He is an industrious storyteller and uncompromising in his ability to create memorable stories that captivate his fans, old and new. He turns to humour in this tale of a city cousin dumped in the country home of Harris, an unrepentant nine-year-old who has already been in enough trouble to last a lifetime. Unsuspecting city kid that he is, our narrator has no idea what trouble means until he meets Harris and becomes trapped in his web of mischief and mayhem. Laugh out loud funny!

Pratt-Serafini, Kristin Joy

Salamander Rain

ISBN 1584690178

Do you need a reason to investigate a pond or lake in your neighbourhood? If so, here's the perfect book to get you started. Kristin Pratt's infectious joy is evident in her lush, detailed journal entries in this small treasure and just right model for what you will find when you let your internal explorer free to roam and discover. She uses her cousin Klint's scrapbook as the impetus to create this well-received and honoured book for young researchers and other fascinated readers.

Rogers, Gregory

The Boy, the Bear, the Baron, the Bard

ISBN 1596430095

An errant soccer ball almost spells disaster for a young boy when it transports him back in time and plunks him on the stage of the Globe theatre. Shakespeare is not pleased and gives chase. The boy befriends a bear and they manage to elude the angry playwright while meeting other interesting Elizabethans. When they are finally rediscovered, the boy must make his escape. Back to the Globe, through the curtain, and he's home. Filled with action, resplendent in the backdrop of this era in history, and exhibiting a sophisticated use of perspective, Rogers creates a story for all ages.

Stevenson, James

Corn Chowder

ISBN 0060530596

No one writes clear observations as CLEARLY as James Stevenson. In this wonderful set of books he takes life's brief moments and breathes life into them for all to see and appreciate. *Corn Chowder* is the seventh and follows on the heels of *Popcorn*, *Candy Corn*, *Corn-Fed*, *Cornflakes*, *Sweet Corn* and *Just Around the Corner*. Each is brilliant in its use of perfect watercolour illustrations to extend the shaped and lively poems that deal with seemingly boring and familiar topics. He gives totally new perspective to the commonplace and helps us see our world with fresh eyes.

🍁 Turney-Zagwyn, Deborah

Long Nellie

ISBN 0902501990

What a character study this book offers! We first meet Long Nellie, a lonely outcast, as she collects firewood. Jeremy's mother describes her as a scavenger. She takes what others throw away. She seems perfect, then, to care for the scruffy, unruly cat that Jeremy finds hiding in a garbage can. Can he introduce the two? With a plan in mind, Jeremy is thrown into Long Nellie's company and finds her to be cheery and concerned. Jeremy learns a lesson about people while establishing a strong friendship with Nellie.

Van Allsburg, Chris

The Widow's Broom

ISBN 0395640512

Chris Van Allsburg is a master of irony. His stories are flawlessly told, and most end with a perfect twist. An old woman befriends an injured witch, who leaves her broom behind when she is, once again, well. Minna assumes the broom has no power, but it is soon helping with household chores. Upon discovery of the bewitched broom, her neighbours think it must harbour evil. It is seized and burned after a run-in with two bratty boys. Thinking the problem solved, the neighbours are distressed to hear that Minna has seen its ghost. Perfect!
