

GROUNDWOOD BOOKS

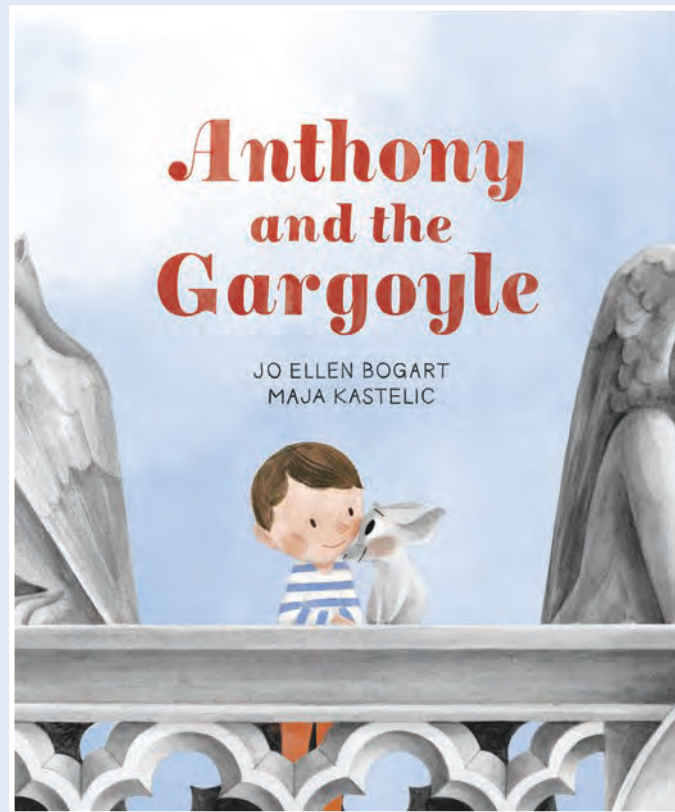
RIGHTS CATALOGUE 2023



GROUNDWOOD

Congratulations to Maja Kastelic,

nominated for the 2023 Yoto Carnegie Medal for Illustration
for *Anthony and the Gargoyle*, authored by Jo Ellen Bogart.



A boy befriends a baby gargoyle in this magical wordless picture book in graphic-novel style from award-winning creators Jo Ellen Bogart and Maja Kastelic.



Rights to *Anthony and the Gargoyle* have sold in the U.K. Commonwealth, Swedish, German, Italian, French Europe, and French North America. All other world rights are available.

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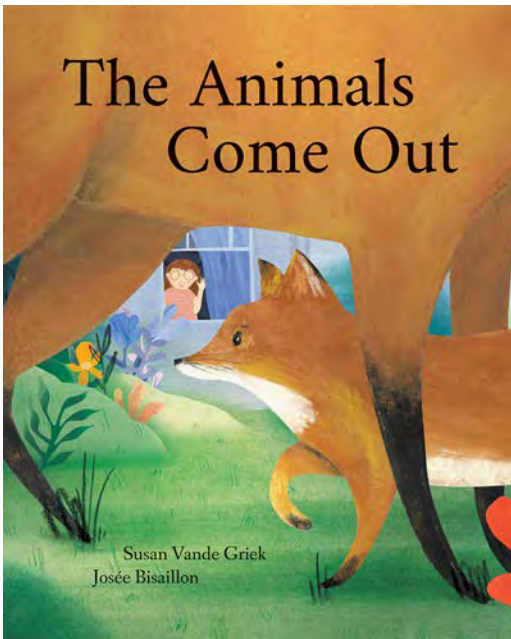
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GROUNDWOOD



3 to 6 years

Pub Date: 5 September 2023

Extent: 24 pages

Trim: 8.25 in x 10.00 in

Rights Held: World All Languages

THE ANIMALS COME OUT

written by Susan Vande Griek
illustrated by Josée Bisailon

Do you ever wonder what could happen if we all hid away? If we stayed in, we just might see ... the animals come out!

A delightful series of poems describes the many animals that emerge from the woods, the hills and the skies when we are not around. Peek out your window and watch the deer grazing under the streetlights, the rabbits hopping through our vegetable gardens, and the ducks quack quack quacking along the sidewalks.

The Animals Come Out was inspired by the wildlife seen in quieted urban areas during the early days of the COVID-19 pandemic, a situation that young readers may well remember. But this book also encourages readers to be aware that, in fact, we share the outdoors with these animals all the time, and to consider the impact that we have upon them.





SUSAN VANDE GRIEK is the author of several highly acclaimed children's books. Her picture book *Loon*, illustrated by Karen Reczuch, was named a USBBY Outstanding International Book and won the Ruth and Sylvia Schwartz Children's Book Award and the Norma Fleck Award for Canadian Children's Non-Fiction, among others. She has also written *Go Home Bay*, illustrated by Pascal Milelli, about the artist Tom Thomson, and *An Owl at Sea*, illustrated by Ian Wallace. Susan lives in Halifax, Nova Scotia.

JOSÉE BISAILLON has illustrated more than forty picture books, and she has been nominated for the Governor General's Literary Award four times. *The Snow Knows* by Jennifer McGrath won the Marilyn Baillie Picture Book Award and was a finalist for the Lillian Shepherd Memorial Award for Excellence in Illustration. Josée has also illustrated *Martin and the River* by Jon-Erik Lappano and *Out into the Big Wide Lake* by Paul Harbridge. She lives with her family near Montreal, Quebec.



3 to 6 years

Pub Date: 1 August 2023

Extent: 40 pages

Trim: 7.88 in x 10.50 in

Rights Held: World All Languages

HOPSCOTCH

written and illustrated by Marie-Louise Gay

When her family must move once more, Ophelia uses her imagination to make magic out of a scary situation.

Giant rabbits with sharp teeth circle the old motel where they are staying. Ophelia can also hear crow-witches cackling from the trees. And when it's time to go to her new school, she encounters an ogre who blocks the road with his giant ogre laughs.

But most frightening of all is when Ophelia is left in her new class and realizes that everyone speaks French. Except her.

The kids stare, and Ophelia feels like a fish in a fishbowl. But equipped with the magic of a sheet of white paper and a rainbow of pencils, she will find a way to cast her own spells over the class.

Inspired by events from her own childhood, beloved children's author-illustrator Marie-Louise Gay weaves a wonderful tale of imagination, creativity and resilience as the keys to children's power in an uncertain world.





MARIE-LOUISE GAY is an internationally acclaimed children's book creator. She has won two Governor General's Literary Awards, the Vicky Metcalf Award for Children's Literature and the Marilyn Baillie Picture Book Award. She has also been nominated for the prestigious Astrid Lindgren Memorial Award and the Hans Christian Andersen Award. Her popular Stella and Sam series has been translated into more than fifteen languages and is loved by children all over the world. She lives in Montreal, Quebec.



3 to 6 years

Pub Date: 1 August 2023

Extent: 32 pages

Trim: 11.00 in x 8.25 in

Rights Held: World All Languages

THE LITTLE GREEN ENVELOPE

written by Gillian Sze

illustrated by Claudine Crangle

A little green envelope longs to go on a journey. Will it be chosen to deliver Olive's letter to her far-away friend?

Olive's friend has moved away, and Olive wishes she could visit her. A little green envelope, lost in the bottom of the desk drawer, knows how Olive feels. It, too, wants so much to travel, and imagines zipping up and down conveyer belts and bouncing along in a mail bag, on its way to deliver an important letter. An old postcard reassures that for every occasion, there is an envelope ... but it seems like it will never be the little green envelope's turn.

When Olive's grandpa suggests writing her friend a letter, the little green envelope hopes and hopes that it will be chosen to carry the letter to its destination — but will it be a perfect fit?

A diagram on the endpapers shows how readers can create their own little green envelopes!



"You will have your chance!" reassured an old postcard, who was admired for having found Grandpa's house despite missing a corner.
"For every occasion, there is an envelope!"



It was her usual Sunday visit with Grandpa, but Olive was not her usual self.

She did not touch a single one of the chocolates. She didn't tickety-tat-tat on the old typewriter. Instead, Olive flopped onto the armchair and sighed.



The girl was as gray as rain clouds. Everyone in the house noticed.

Whispers were sent from the lamp to the books to the clock and on and on until every teaspoon and page learned the reason:

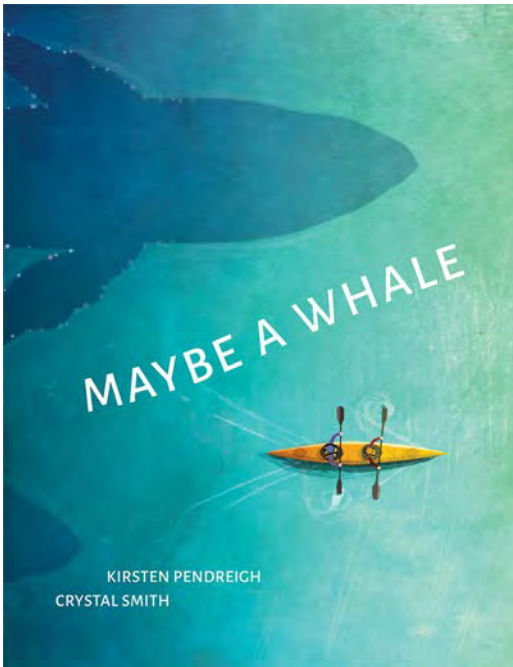
Olive's friend had moved away.

GILLIAN SZE is the author of poetry collections, creative nonfiction and picture books. Her recent books include *You Are My Favorite Color* (illustrated by Niña Mata), *The Night Is Deep and Wide* (illustrated by Sue Todd) and *My Love for You Is Always* (illustrated by Michelle Lee). Her work has attained starred reviews from *Quill & Quire*, *Publishers Weekly* and *Kirkus Reviews*. Originally from Winnipeg, she now resides in Montreal, Quebec, where she teaches creative writing and literature.

CLAUDINE CRANGLE is a multidisciplinary artist whose previous picture books include *The House Next Door*, *Priscilla Pack Rat* and *Woolfred Cannot Eat Dandelions*. As a kid who loved to make things out of cereal boxes, she hopes that her books will inspire creativity and construction. She plays with various printmaking techniques combined with collage and paper sculpture using materials scavenged from recycling bins where she lives, in Toronto, Ontario.



GROUNDWOOD



3 to 6 years

Pub Date: 1 August 2023

Extent: 36 pages

Trim: 8.62 in x 11.25 in

Rights Held: World All Languages

MAYBE A WHALE

written by Kirsten Pendreigh
illustrated by Crystal Smith

After Grandpa dies, a girl and her mother take the trip he had planned for her, kayaking along the Pacific west coast to look for the whales that he loved.

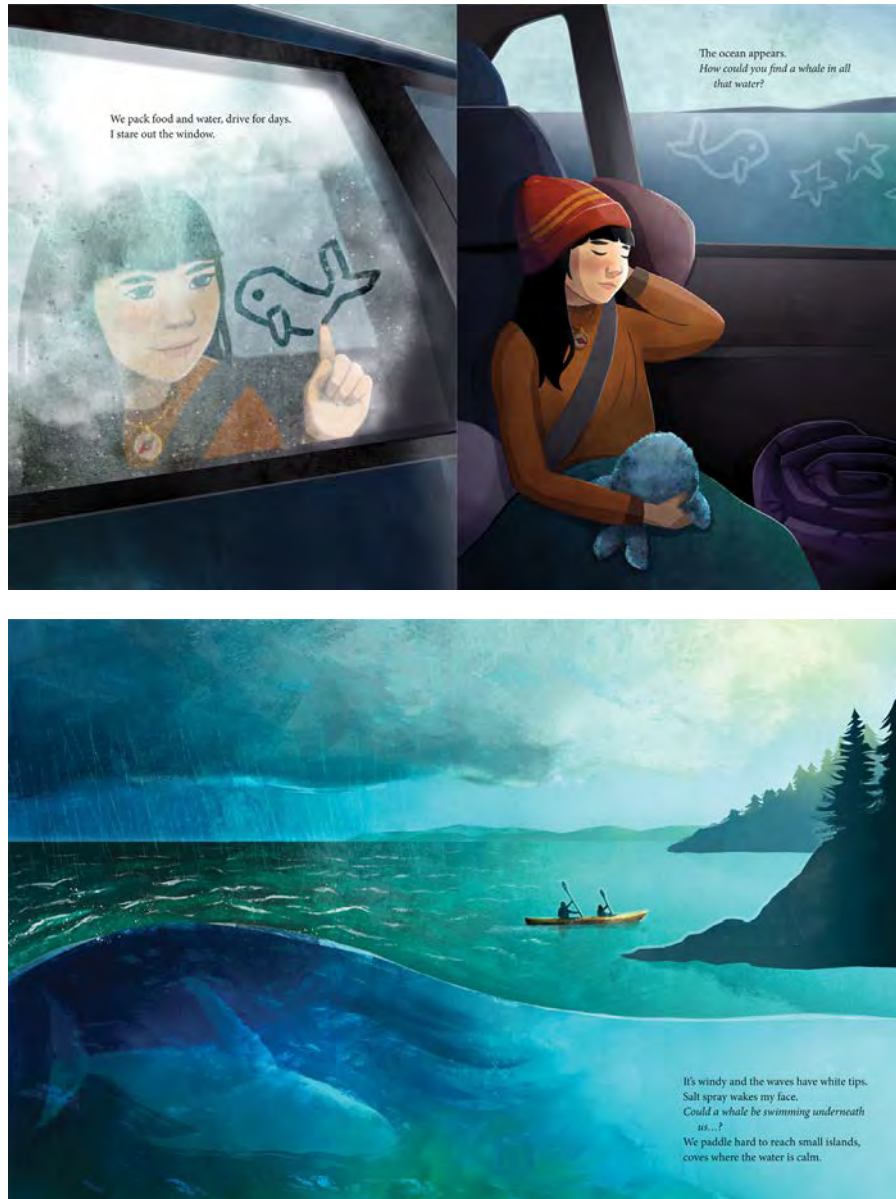
The trip will do them good, Mom says, but the girl isn't sure. How can that be true when Grandpa isn't there? And how will they find a whale in all that water, anyway?

There is so much to see as they paddle through white-tipped waves and calm coves: glowing moon jellies, fluttering anemones and slippery seals. All the while, the girl watches for whales. Could one be swimming beneath their kayak or along the shore of their camp? Are the whales even there?

Finally, in the dark of night, they hear them — pushhhhhhh, pushhhhhhh — humpbacks breathing in the bay.

In this lyrical story, luminously illustrated by Crystal Smith, mom and daughter find the space to grieve Grandpa and reconnect with each other in the wild beauty of nature. And they come to realize that — perhaps like whales — those we've loved are always with us, even if we don't see them anymore.



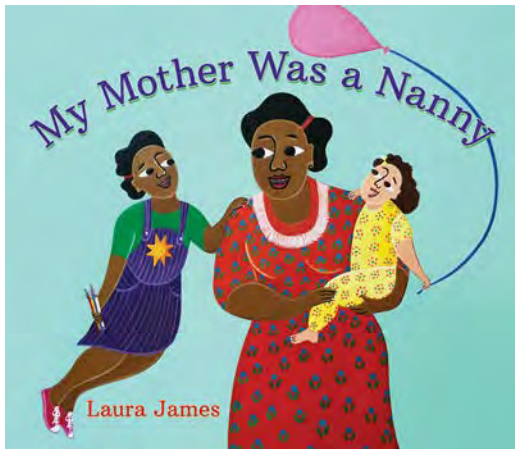


KIRSTEN PENDREIGH is a children's author and poet from Vancouver, BC. Her books celebrate our early instincts to care for the plants and creatures that share our planet. She is the author of *Luna's Green Pet*, illustrated by Carmen Mok. Kirsten's poems can be found in Canadian literary magazines and in Best Canadian Poetry 2021. Formerly a CBC and NPR journalist, Kirsten also writes non-fiction for children.

CRYSTAL SMITH is the daughter of a lighthouse keeper who discovered her passion for wildlife when she was small. She illustrates the natural world to spark curiosity and wonder, kindle concern, and illuminate issues. Crystal currently lives in Victoria, BC. She has worked with the David Suzuki Foundation and Parks Canada, along with other clients.



GROUNDWOOD



3 to 6 years

Pub Date: 5 September 2023

Extent: 32 pages

Trim: 9.12 in x 8.00 in

Rights Held: World All Languages

MY MOTHER WAS A NANNY

written and illustrated by Laura James

A girl longs for her mother's attention. But Mummy is always busy helping everyone else and their children!

Day by day, the narrator recalls what it was like growing up with her mother, who was a nanny, as well as a friend, baker, maker, teacher, cleaner and more. As the youngest in her family, the girl stayed home and helped amuse the children her mother looked after. She went along on trips to the Caribbean greengrocer in their Brooklyn neighborhood, where her mother would almost always forget to buy her favorite fruit. She eavesdropped on her mother's conversations, waiting for her turn to talk, only to be shooed away. She even accompanied her mother on office-cleaning expeditions on Saturdays. Mummy seldom had a moment to spare.

But looking back on a special surprise one Easter Sunday, the narrator realizes that her mother was always thinking about her own children, in spite of the demands of her domestic work and the central role she played in her community.

Based on Laura James' childhood in Brooklyn, and accompanied by her gorgeous, vibrant illustrations, this simple story is a moving reflection of race, class and labor in North America, including the Caribbean.





LAURA JAMES is a self-taught painter and illustrator whose African- and Caribbean-American heritage and love of color, design and story inform her work. This book was inspired by her mother, a homemaker, nanny and domestic worker, along with Laura's paintings in the Nanny Series. Her art has appeared in many solo and group exhibitions, textbooks and film, and the picture books *Anna Carries Water* and *Boonoonoonous Hair!* both by Olive Senior. Laura lives in the Bronx, New York.



GROUNDWOOD



3 to 6 years

Pub Date: 3 October 2023

Extent: 32 pages

Trim: 9.00 in x 9.00 in

Rights Held: World All Languages

THE PET STORE WINDOW

written by Jairo Buitrago

illustrated by Rafael Yockteng

Ana looks out the pet store window with the store's last remaining animals for sale—a dog, a hedgehog and a mouse. What are they waiting for?

Ana remembers finding the dog and bringing him to the store as a puppy. She's watched as all the other dogs—the most charming, the most elegant, the strongest—have all gone off. Ana, too, has never left, except at nights when she closes the store and goes home to the modest apartment she shares with her grandmother.

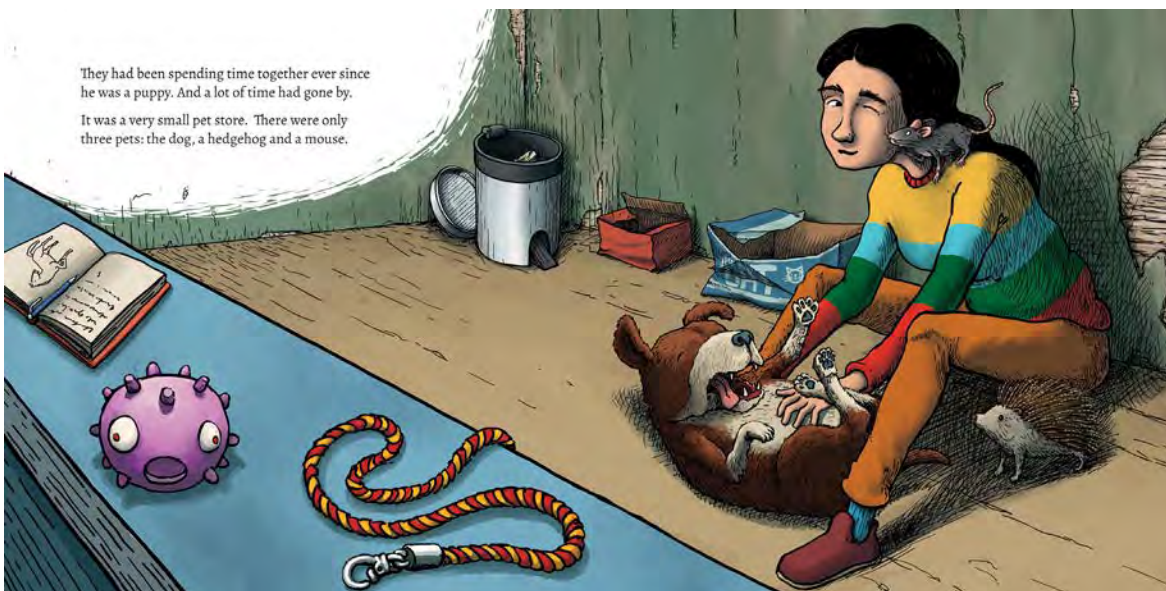
But a day comes when the store owner announces that he has sold the store. An office tower will be built in its place. It makes no difference to him what happens to the animals, but Ana knows what she does next will make all the difference to her friends. Because after being together so long, isn't that what they are?

An exciting new offering by internationally acclaimed, award-winning picture book creators Jairo Buitrago and Rafael Yockteng, *The Pet Store Window* is a stirring reminder of those who are often overlooked or left behind by society, showing readers the ways in which we can offer each other hope, support and friendship in difficult times.





He was a dog. A normal, regular dog, not too big, not too small. Not that smart and not very handsome, either.
He lived in a pet store.



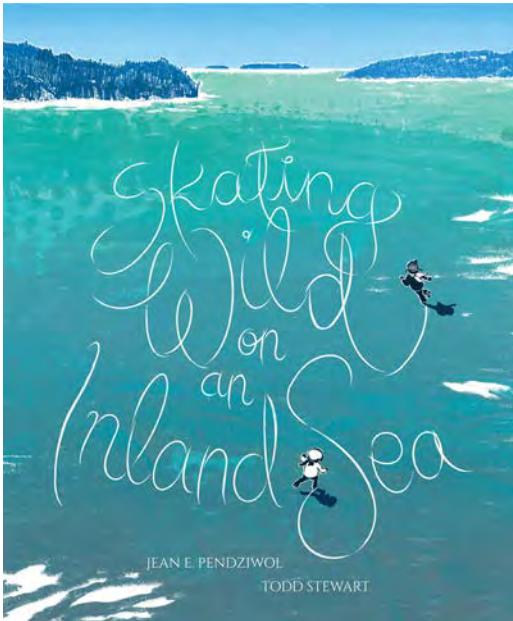
They had been spending time together ever since he was a puppy. And a lot of time had gone by.
It was a very small pet store. There were only three pets: the dog, a hedgehog and a mouse.

Author **JAIRO BUITRAGO** has collaborated with Rafael Yockteng on several picture books, including *Jimmy the Greatest!* (six starred reviews), *Two White Rabbits* (three starred reviews), *Walk with Me* (three starred reviews), *Lion and Mouse* (two starred reviews) and *Wounded Falcons* (two starred reviews and named an USBBY Outstanding International Book). Jairo has also won the Hispanoamericano Castillo prize for children's literature and the Antonio García Cubas Award. He lives in Mexico City, Mexico.

RAFAEL YOCKTENG has illustrated many highly acclaimed children's books, including *Wounded Falcons* (two starred reviews and named an USBBY Outstanding International Books), *Jimmy the Greatest!* (six starred reviews), *Two White Rabbits* (three starred reviews), and *Walk with Me* (three starred reviews) by Jairo Buitrago. Rafael's books have been included on IBBY's Honor List, the Horn Book Fanfare and in the White Ravens Catalogue. He lives in Bogotá, Colombia.



GROUNDWOOD



3 to 6 years

Pub Date: 3 October 2023

Extent: 32 pages

Trim: 9.50 in x 11.50 in

Rights Held: World All Languages

SKATING WILD ON AN INLAND SEA

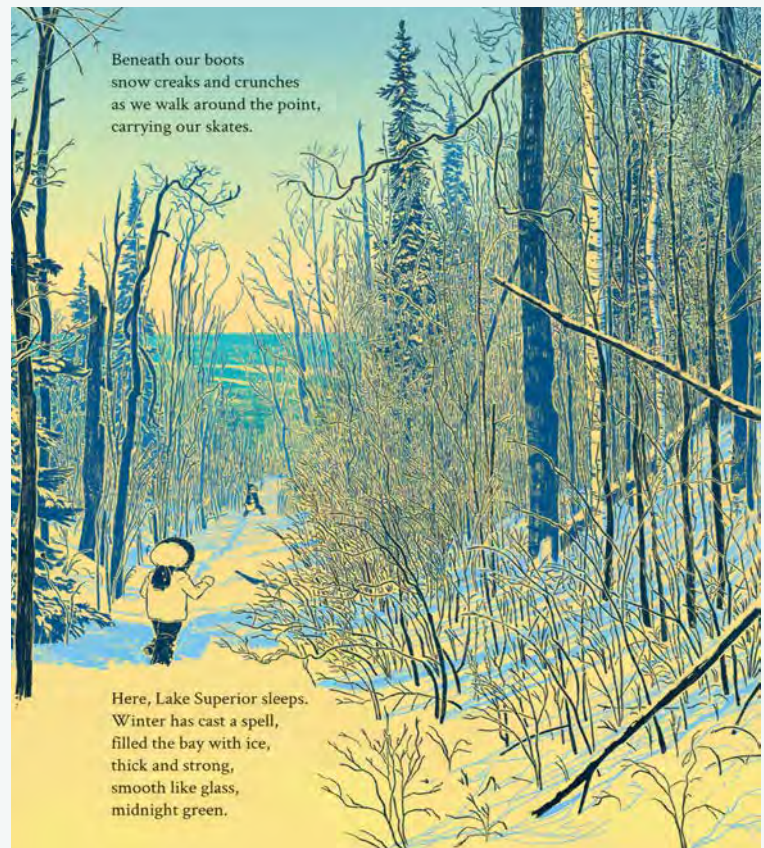
written by Jean E. Pendziwol

illustrated by Todd Stewart

Let's go! Experience the magic of skating on wild ice.

Two children wake up to hear the lake singing, then the wind begins wailing ... or is it a wolf? They bundle up and venture out into the cold, carrying their skates. On the snow-covered shore, they spot tracks made by fox, deer, hare, mink, otter ... and the wolf! In the bay, the ice is thick and smooth. They lace up their skates, step onto the ice, stroking and gliding, and the great lake sings again.

In her signature poetic style, Jean E. Pendziwol describes the exhilarating experience of skating on the wild ice of Lake Superior, including the haunting singing that occurs as the ice expands and contracts. Accompanied by Todd Stewart's breathtaking illustrations, this book will make us all long to skate wild!





JEAN E. PENDZIOWOL'S highly acclaimed picture books include *When I Listen to Silence*, illustrated by Carmen Mok; *I Found Hope in a Cherry Tree*, illustrated by Nathalie Dion; *Me and You and the Red Canoe*, illustrated by Phil; and *Once Upon a Northern Night*, illustrated by Isabelle Arsenault (finalist for the Governor General's Literary Award and the TD Canadian Children's Literature Award). She lives in Northwestern Ontario on the shores of Lake Superior.

TODD STEWART is an illustrator and printmaker. His debut picture book, *The Wind in the Trees (Quand le vent souffle)*, was a finalist for the TD Canadian Children's Literature Award and the Governor General's Literary Award. He has also illustrated *Flow, Spin Grow* by Patchen Barss and *See You Next Year* by Andrew Larsen, among other titles. Todd's screen-printed art has been shown in public and private exhibitions across Canada. He lives in Montreal, Quebec.



GROUNDWOOD



9 to 12 years

Pub Date: 3 October 2023

Extent: 144 pp

Trim: 5.00 in x 7.50 in

Rights Held: World All Languages

MAGGIE LOU, FIREFOX

written by Arnolda Dufour Bowes

illustrated by Karlene Harvey

Maggie Lou's grandpa doesn't call her Firefox for nothing. She's always finding ways to make life more interesting – even if this means getting into big trouble.

When her grandfather Mushom finally agrees to teach her how to box, she decides that the rank odors, endless drills and teasing won't stop her from wearing a tutu to the gym. Joining her father's construction crew uncovers a surprising talent — besides learning how to use a broom — and a great source of scrap wood to build a canine hotel for her dogs. And when she turns thirteen, she figures out an ingenious way to make some smokin' good camouflage to wear on her first deer hunt, where she joins a long family tradition.

Through it all she is surrounded by her big extended gumbo soup of a family, pestered by annoying younger siblings, and gently guided by her strong female relatives – her mother, her kokom and her ultra-cool cousin Jayda. "Keep taking up space," Maggie's mother says. "You're only making room for the girls behind you."

A heroine for today, Maggie Lou discovers that with hard work and perseverance she can gain valuable new skills, without losing one iota of her irrepressible spirit.

ARNOLDA DUFOUR BOWES is a Métis writer who grew up in Saskatoon but has lived around the world, from New Zealand to Saudi Arabia. She has worked in construction and nursing, and she loves new adventures, from skydiving to surfing. She is the author of *20.12 m: A Short Story Collection of a Life Lived as a Road Allowance Métis*, which won the Danuta Gleed Literary Award and the High Plains Book Award. Arnolda lives with her husband, three children and two dogs in a small town in Saskatchewan.



GROUNDWOOD



COVER NOT FINAL

9 to 12 years

Pub Date: 5 September 2023

Extent: 304 pp

Trim: 5.00 in x 7.50 in

Rights Held: World All Languages

GAME FACE

written by Shari Green

Thirteen-year-old Jonah is determined to prove that anxiety won't stop him from succeeding as his hockey team's goalie in this dynamic novel in verse.

What-ifs rattle around his brain at the worst times, like when he's in the middle of a playoff game. What if he lets his teammates down? What if he can't make it pro? And the biggest what-if of all, the one he keeps to himself — what if he's like his dad, whose life is controlled by anxiety that has only gotten worse since Jonah's mom died in a car crash?

To prove that he's not like that, Jonah is determined to succeed in the high-stress role of goalie. He and his best friend Ty have big plans for their hockey futures. But when Ty suffers a medical crisis during a pivotal game, Jonah's anxiety ramps up to new levels.

It takes courage to ask for help, but Jonah starts to realize that his team goes beyond the people who lace up their skates with him every week, and maybe it's okay to look for support on and off the ice.

From the adrenaline rush of sudden-death overtime to the weight of worrying about letting your teammates — and yourself — down, this novel in verse will hook readers from the first line.

SHARI GREEN's middle-grade verse novels include *Root Beer Candy and Other Miracles*, an IYL White Ravens selection; *Macy McMillan and the Rainbow Goddess*, a Schneider Family Book Award winner, Junior Library Guild selection, IBBY Outstanding Books for Young People with Disabilities selection, and USBBY Outstanding International Books selection; and *Missing Mike*, an NCTE Notable Verse Novels selection and USBBY Outstanding International Books selection. Shari lives on Vancouver Island, BC.



GROUNDWOOD



13 to 18 years

Pub Date: 1 August 2023

Extent: 240 pp

Trim: 5.50 in x 8.50 in

Rights Held: World All Languages

FOCUS, CLICK, WIND

written by Amanda West Lewis

What if your country is involved in an unjust war, and you've lost trust in your own government?

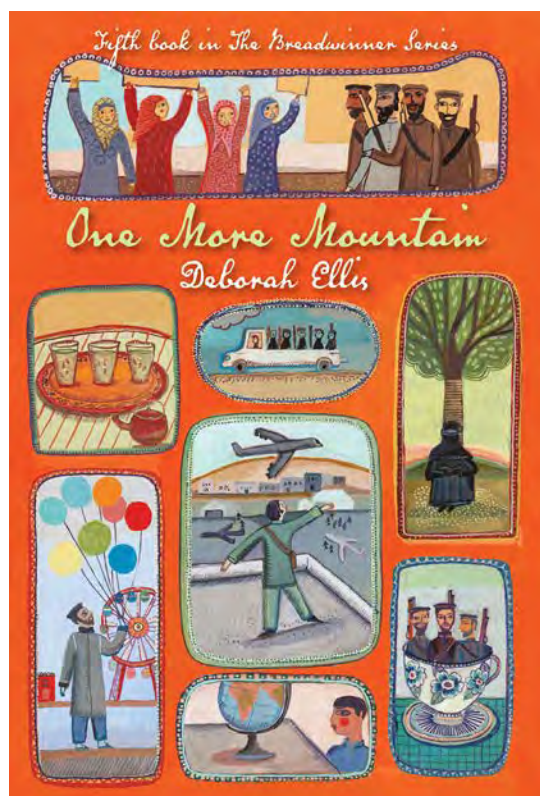
Billie Taylor is no stranger to risky situations, but when she attends a student protest at Columbia University with her college boyfriend, and the US is caught up in violent political upheaval, her mother decides to move the two of them to Canada. Furious at being dragged away from her beloved New York City to live in a backwater called Toronto, Billie doesn't take her exile lightly. As her mother opens their home to draft evaders and deserters, Billie's activism grows in new ways. She discovers an underground network of political protesters and like minds in a radical group based in Rochdale College, the world's first "free" university. And the stakes rise when she is exposed to horrific images from Vietnam of the victims of Agent Orange – a chemical being secretly manufactured in a small town just north of Toronto.

Suddenly she has to ask herself some hard questions. How far will she go to be part of a revolution? Is violence ever justified? Or does standing back just make you part of the problem?

AMANDA WEST LEWIS is the author of seven books for young readers, including *These Are Not the Words*. Her novel *September 17* was nominated for the Silver Birch Award, the Red Cedar Award and the Violet Downey IODE Award. She is a writer, theater creator, calligrapher and teaching artist. She is the founder of the Ottawa Children's Theatre, and she has an MFA from Vermont College of Fine Arts. Born in New York City, she now lives in Brooke Valley, Ontario, with her husband, writer Tim Wynne-Jones.



GROUNDWOOD



10 to 14 years

Pub Date: 4 October 2022

Extent: 200 pp

Trim: 5.25 in x 8.00 in

Rights Held: World All Languages

Rights Sold: Audio (Listening Library), United Kingdom (Oxford University Press), Australia/New Zealand (Allen & Unwin), Italian (Rizzoli), German (Jungbrunnen), Spanish for the Americas (Castillo), Simplified Chinese (Beijing Double Spiral), Croatian (Znanje), Arabic (Kalimat)

ONE MORE MOUNTAIN

It's 2021, and the Taliban have regained power in Afghanistan. Parvana and Shauzia, the brave protagonists of *The Breadwinner*, must now flee to escape new dangers from an old enemy.

In Kabul, 15-year-old Damsa runs away to avoid being forced into marriage by her family. She is found by a police officer named Shauzia, who takes her to Green Valley, a shelter and school for women and girls run by Parvana.

It has been 20 years since Parvana and Shauzia had to disguise themselves as boys to support themselves and their families. But when the Taliban were defeated in 2001, it looked as if Afghans could finally rebuild their country. Many things have changed for Parvana since then. She has married Asif, who she met in the desert as she searched for her family when she was a child. She runs a school for girls. She has a son, Rafi, who is about to fly to New York, where he will train to become a dancer.

But Shauzia is still Parvana's best friend. And Parvana is still headstrong, bringing her in conflict with her spoiled sister Maryam.

While Asif tries to get Maryam and Rafi on one of the last flights out of Kabul, the Taliban come to the school, and Parvana must lead the girls out of Green Valley and into the mountains.

All royalties will be donated to Canadian Women for Women in Afghanistan.

DEBORAH ELLIS is the author of the international bestseller *The Breadwinner*, which has been published in twenty-five languages. She has won the Governor General's Award, the Middle East Book Award, the Peter Pan Prize, the Jane Addams Children's Book Award and the Vicky Metcalf Award. A recipient of the Order of Canada, Deborah has donated more than \$2 million in royalties to organizations such as Canadian Women for Women in Afghanistan, Mental Health Without Borders, the UNHCR and the Children in Crisis fund of IBBY. She lives in Simcoe, Ontario.

Deborah Ellis's riveting Breadwinner series is comprised of four award-winning novels about loyalty, survival, families and friendship under extraordinary circumstances during the Taliban's rule and fall in Afghanistan in the late 1990s and early 2000s. In 2017 *The Breadwinner* was adapted into an Academy Award-nominated animated feature film, which originated the arresting *The Breadwinner: A Graphic Novel*.



9 to 12 years

Pub Date: Spring 2024

Extent: 212 pages (TBC)

Trim: 8.625 in x 7.00 in (TBC)

Rights Held: World All Languages

Rights Sold: Italian (Il Castoro)

WILDFUL

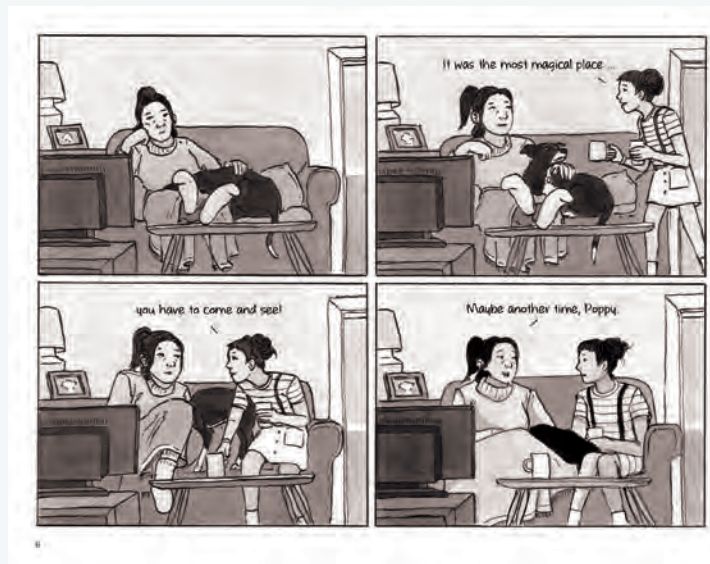
written and illustrated by Kengo Kurimoto

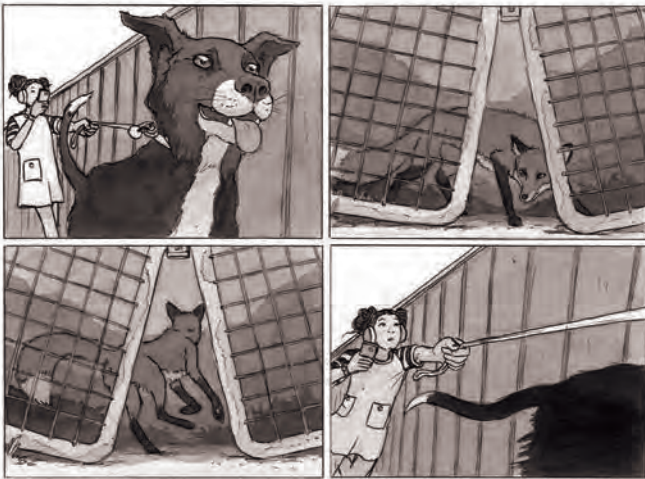
The natural world comes alive in this middle-grade graphic novel reminiscent of a modern-day *Secret Garden*.

When Poppy's dog darts off the sidewalk and through a hole in the fence, Poppy rushes to follow ... but instead of finding another suburb like the one she just came from, she discovers a forgotten forest. There, she meets a boy named Rob, who shows Poppy how to follow deer tracks, to recognize the calls of birds, and to simply sit and soak in the beauty of the wilderness.

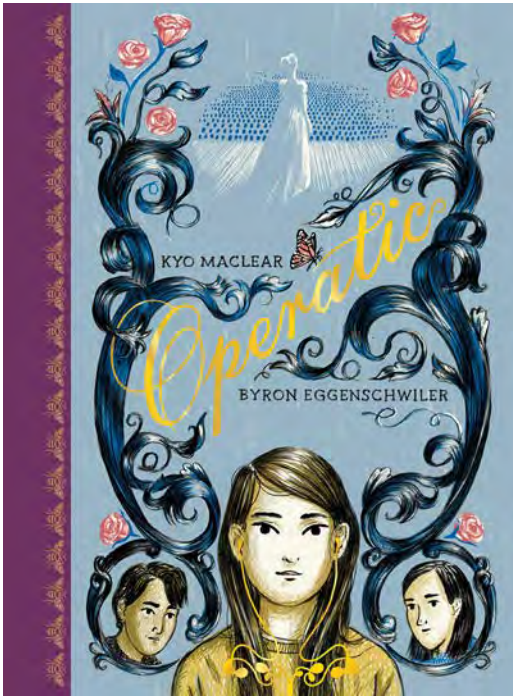
Poppy's regular escapes to the woods are also escapes from her mother, who seems to have no interest in her, ever since Poppy's gran passed away. Through Rob's gentle friendship, and the awe that Poppy feels toward the nature around her, she is finally able to stop and listen ... to the woods and to the creatures in it, and also to her heart, which helps her to forge a pathway back to her mother.

This beautifully illustrated graphic novel reminds us all to sit and listen to nature as a way to find wonder and healing in our own lives.





KENGO KURIMOTO has worked across disciplines from architecture to animation to console games. He worked on the PlayStation games *LittleBigPlanet* and *Dreams*. *Wildful* is his debut graphic novel. He lives in the United Kingdom.



10 to 14 years

Pub Date: 1 April 2019

Extent: 160 pages

Trim: 6.50 in x 9.00 in

Rights Held: World All Languages

Rights Sold: Spanish and Catalan (Andana Llibres), Italian (Edizioni BD), French (La Pastèque).

OPERATIC

written by Kyo Maclear

illustrated by Byron Eggenschwiler

A story of friendship, first crushes, opera and the high drama of middle school told by award-winning Kyo Maclear in her debut graphic novel.

Somewhere in the universe, there is the perfect tune for you.

It's almost the end of middle school, and Charlie has to find her perfect song for a music class assignment. But it's hard for Charlie to concentrate when she can't stop noticing her classmate Emile, or wondering about Luka, who hasn't been to school in weeks.

Then, the class learns about opera, and Charlie discovers the music of Maria Callas. The more she learns about Maria's life, the more Charlie admires her passion for singing and her ability to express herself fully through her music. Can Charlie follow the example of the ultimate diva, Maria Callas, when it comes to her own life?





KYO MACLEAR is a beloved author of books for children and adults. Her recent children's books include *Bloom: A Story of Fashion Designer Elsa Schiaparelli*, illustrated by Julie Morstad, *Yak and Dove*, illustrated by Esmé Shapiro, and *The Liszts*, illustrated by Júlia Sardà. She lives in Toronto with her two sons, two cats and a singer.

BYRON EGGENSCHWILER is an award-winning illustrator whose recent books include *The Little Ghost Who Was a Quilt* by Riel Nason, *Operatic* by Kyo Maclear (starred reviews from *Booklist*, *School Library Journal* and *Quill & Quire*), *Coyote Tales* by Thomas King and *Beastly Puzzles* by Rachel Poliquin (starred review from *School Library Journal*). Byron's work has also appeared in the *New Yorker*, the *New York Times*, the *Wall Street Journal*, the *Walrus*, *GQ* and *O, The Oprah Magazine*. He lives in Calgary, Alberta.



3 to 6 years

Pub Date: 4 April 2023

Extent: 40 pages

Trim: 9.00 in x 10.00 in

Rights Held: World All Languages

Rights Sold: French North America (Dominique et Compagnie)

THE INVITATION

written by Stacey May Fowles
illustrated by Marie Lafrance

Stacey May Fowles' debut picture book is a whimsical, warmhearted story of how a super-special surprise can lead to anxiety — or invite imagination.

One beautiful fall day, Fern opens her mailbox and finds an envelope. After much worrying about what it could possibly contain, her friend Fawn encourages her to open it. Inside, she finds an invitation to a super-special surprise at the museum — but Fern doesn't like surprises!

Luckily, Fawn offers to come with her to the party. What could possibly happen, he asks. Along the way, Fern voices her worries: What if they can't make it in time? What if they don't know anyone there?

Fawn playfully follows his friend's way of thinking, while gently suggesting twists to her story and a fun new cast of characters — the chipmunk who could show them a shortcut, the grumpy bear who could clear their path, the brave dentist who might treat the bear's toothache — until at last they arrive, and Fern is able to enjoy the wonderful surprise happening around her.

Marie Lafrance's delightfully dreamy illustrations bring the imagined world of Fern and Fawn to life in this super-special story about catastrophic thinking.





On a beautiful fall day, Fern stood on the front step of her little blue house and pulled a bright yellow envelope from her mailbox.



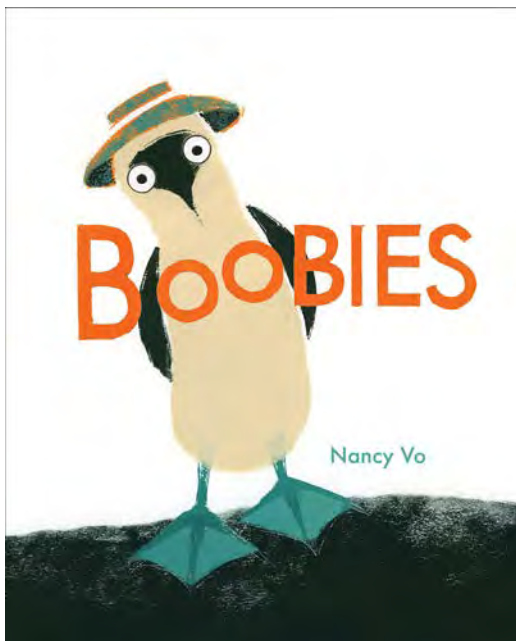
The sun was shining, the birds were singing, and the leaves were turning from green to gold. But Fern didn't notice any of that. Instead, she stared at the mysterious envelope, worrying about all the things that could possibly be inside.

STACEY MAY FOWLES is a multiple award-winning journalist, essayist and author of four books, including the national bestseller, *Baseball Life Advice: Loving the Game that Saved Me*. She is the co-editor, with Jen Sookfong Lee, of the anthology *Good Mom on Paper: Writers on Creativity and Motherhood*. A former columnist at the *Globe and Mail*, Stacey currently writes the Book Therapy column for *Open Book Ontario*. She lives in Toronto, Ontario, with her husband and daughter.

MARIE LAFRANCE has illustrated for magazines, newspapers, billboards and boxes of jelly powder, but now she prefers to use her warm and engaging artwork to bring picture books to life. Her books include *The Lady with the Books* by Kathy Stinson, *Gemma and the Giant Girl* by Sara O'Leary and *The Brass Charm* by Monique Polak. Her art has been included in the New York Society of Illustrators Original Art Exhibition, and she has won the Ruth and Sylvia Schwartz Award. Marie lives in Montreal, Quebec.



GROUNDWOOD



3 to 6 years

Pub Date: 30 August 2022

Extent: 40 pages

Trim: 8.75 in x 11.00 in

Rights Held: World All Languages

Rights Sold: French North America (Bagnole),
Dutch (Volt), Spanish and Catalan (Juventud),
Complex Chinese (China Times Publishing)

BOOBIES

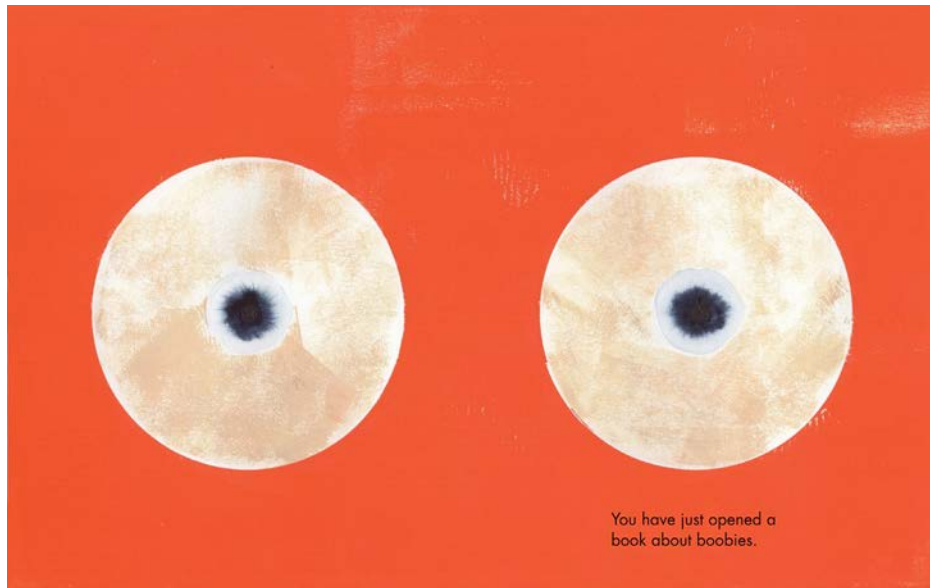
written and illustrated by Nancy Vo

A cheeky celebration of boobies!

"You have just opened a book about boobies." Meet the Blue-footed Booby, who does not have any boobies at all, since only mammals have boobies. We learn that mammals have boobies to feed babies — even though milk can also come from plants. And did you know that boobies, or breasts, vary from person to person, that boobies change over time, and that different animals have different numbers of boobies? Witty and wide-ranging, this eye-opening picture book goes on to explore connections between boobies and mountains, boobies and ancient art and, of course, boobies and you!

Nancy Vo's latest creation is fresh and funny, while serving up just the right amount of fact. Punchy prose is complemented by striking stencil art in a retro palette, making this the perfect gift for curious young children, older children getting to know their bodies, and anyone ready to boldly celebrate boobies!

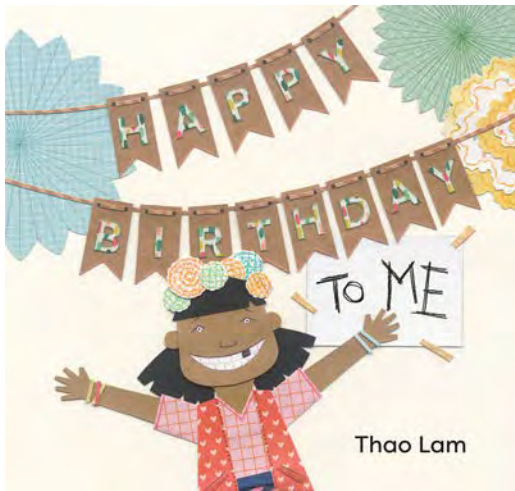




NANCY VO was born on the prairies and now lives in Vancouver, British Columbia. She studied fine arts and architecture, and now works as a facility planner and a picture-book maker. She is the author and illustrator of the first two books in the Crow Stories trilogy. *The Outlaw* was described by the *New York Times* as "Bewitching," while *The Ranger* received a starred review from *Kirkus* and was praised as "visually arresting and enigmatic." Nancy has also illustrated *As Glenn as Can Be* by Sarah Ellis.



GROUNDWOOD



3 to 6 years

Pub Date: 4 April 2023

Extent: 44 pages

Trim: 9.50 in x 9.00 in

Rights Held: World All Languages

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO ME

written and illustrated by Thao Lam

A child runs through a spectrum of emotions on the best day of the year—their birthday! Early-morning excitement gives way to shyness at the arrival of guests, hunger for cake, a craze for arts and crafts, and some real piñata problems. So how can a kid possibly answer that age old question: "How does it feel to be a year older?"

From bestselling picture-book creator Thao Lam comes this irrepressible celebration of emotions, captured in a rainbow of cut-paper collage. *Happy Birthday to Me* makes for the perfect birthday present or anytime-guide to naming our feelings.





THAO LAM is the best-selling, critically acclaimed author/illustrator of *THAO*, *Wallpaper*, *My Cat Looks Like My Dad*, *Skunk on a String*, and *The Paper Boat*, named a best book of 2020 by *Kirkus*, *Booklist*, *School Library Journal*, the *Globe and Mail*, *CBC*, and others. She studied illustration at Sheridan College and has an insatiable love of colored and textured papers, which she uses to create her exuberant collages. She lives in Toronto, Ontario.



GROUNDWOOD



3 to 6 years

Pub Date: 2 August 2022

Extent: 32 pages

Trim: 9.75 in x 9.75 in

Rights Held: World All Languages

Rights Sold: Korean (Urikyoyuk)

BLANKET

written and illustrated by Ruth Ohi

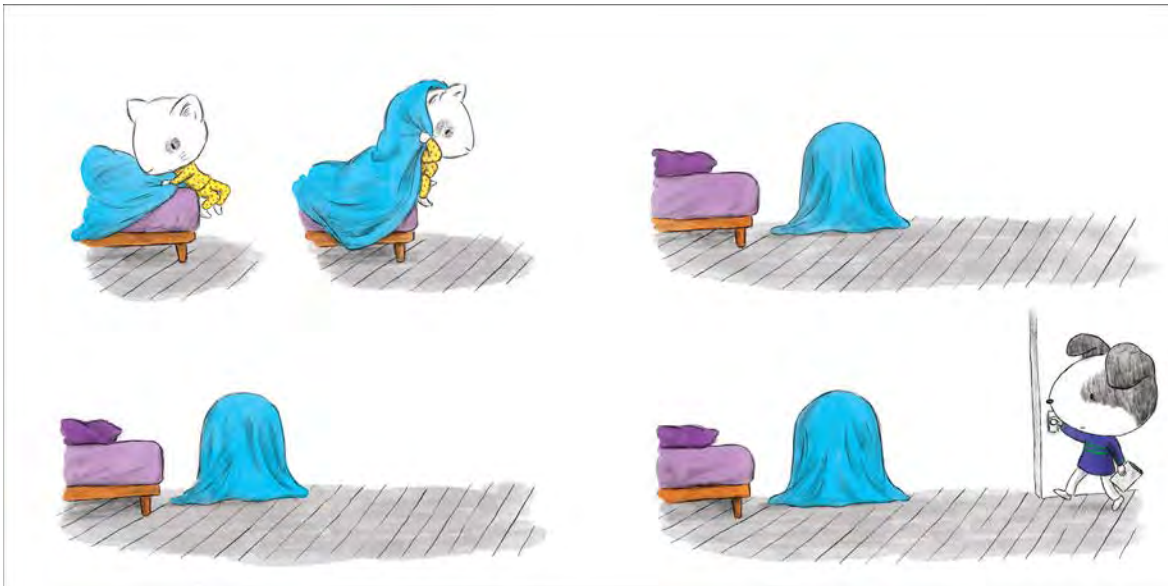
A gentle wordless picture book about the difference a kind friend can make on a gray day.

It's a beautiful morning, but when Cat wakes up, the world feels gray. Cat wraps up in a blanket and hides — until Dog comes in. What can Dog do to help Cat?

Dog joins Cat under the blanket and listens to Cat's worries. Dog's flashlight illuminates the darkness and brings laughter. The two friends build a blanket fort where they can make shadow puppets and find comfort in storybooks. Dog makes sandwiches so that they can share a picnic meal. With Dog's help, Cat discovers ways to cope until the sadness starts to lift.

Ruth Ohi's first wordless picture book is a quiet, heartfelt story about those times when you just want to hide under a blanket — and how much it can mean to have a friend who will be there to keep you company.





RUTH OHI has illustrated over sixty books, twenty-one of which she is also the author. Her books have been selected for NYC READ365, Kirkus Reviews Best Books, the Canadian Toy Testing Council's Great Books, the Ontario Library Association's Best Bets and the Canadian Children's Book Centre's Best Books. Her recent books include *Choose Kindness*, *No Help Wanted*, *Scribble*, and the Fox and Squirrel series. Ruth is a graduate of the Ontario College of Art and Design, and lives in Toronto, Ontario.



3 to 6 years

Pub Date: 2 May 2023

Extent: 32 pp

Trim: 8.00 in x 11.25 in

Rights Held: World All Languages

PEACEFUL ME

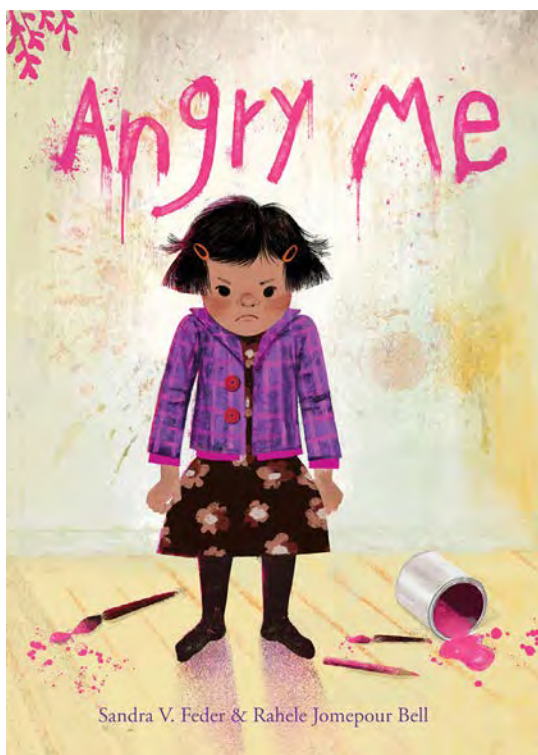
A young child tells us about the different times when he feels peaceful, as well as how he copes when he needs to find a peaceful state again.

Acclaimed picture-book creators Sandra V. Feder and Rahele Jomepour Bell have teamed up once again to create a thoughtful and beautifully illustrated exploration of peacefulness.

"I like feeling peaceful," the young narrator tells us, then describes the times when he is filled with this emotion. When he is playing with a friend, he feels "free peaceful"; when he is having family dinner, "yummy peaceful"; when he is outside gazing up at the sky, "fluffy clouds peaceful". But, of course, he doesn't always feel peaceful, and we hear about his strategies for coping during those times, such as taking deep breaths, imagining his favorite things, and finding a quiet refuge or a hug.

Peaceful Me is the perfect companion to *Angry Me* — together, they encourage readers to let anger come and go, while inviting peace to come and stay.





ANGRY ME

A young child tells us what makes her angry and how she tries to let the anger come and go. An artful starting point for conversations about strong feelings.

“I get angry,” says a little girl, looking fiercely in the mirror. Sometimes she gets angry when someone is mean and tries to take her toy away, when it feels unfair that there’s not enough time to go swimming, when she’s tired and just wants to go home, or when the kids at school leave her out, hurting her feelings.

When she’s angry, she tries to remember to use her words — even though that doesn’t always work. Sometimes she can’t find the right words, or the words don’t come out the way she intends. But sometimes words do help, and when her anger melts away a new feeling can blossom.

Sandra Feder’s cleverly constructed text presents different situations in which a child might feel angry, creating a nuanced look at anger and its many underlying emotions. Rahele Jomepour Bell’s illustrations show a loveable, angry little girl, brimming with personality, who learns how to express herself as she moves through her feelings.

3 to 6 years

Pub Date: 1 May 2022

Extent: 32 pp

Trim: 8.00 in x 11.25 in

Rights Held: World All Languages

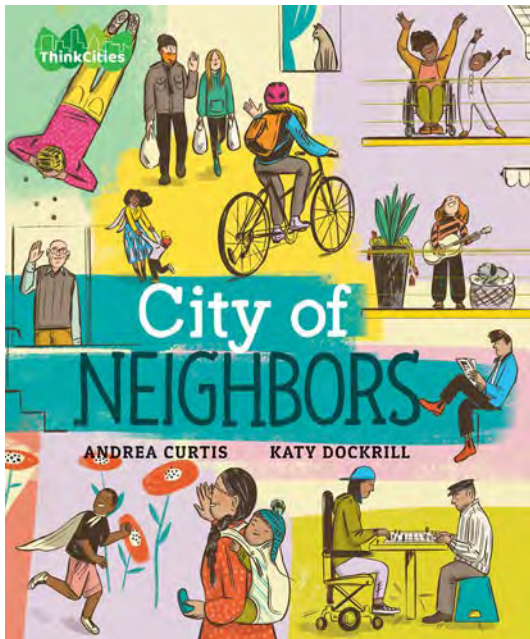
Rights Sold: Swedish (Epix)

SANDRA V. FEDER is the author of three acclaimed picture books: *Angry Me*, illustrated by Rahele Jomepour Bell; *Bitter and Sweet*, illustrated by Kyrsten Brooker, a PJ Library selection; and *The Moon Inside*, illustrated by Aimée Sicuro, which has been translated into multiple languages. She has also written the Daisy series of early chapter books, illustrated by Susan Mitchell. Sandra lives in California.

RAHELE JOMEPOUR BELL’s charming illustrations have appeared in *Angry Me* by Sandra V. Feder, *The Treasure Box* by Dave J. Keane and *Our Favorite Day of the Year* by A. E. Ali (*Kirkus* Best Picture Books of the Year), among others. She has also published seven picture books in Iran and has received a number of awards and honors for her work.



GROUNDWOOD



8 to 12 years

Pub Date: 2 May 2023

Extent: 40 pp

Trim: 8.75 in x 10.62 in

Rights Held: World All Languages

CITY OF NEIGHBORS

A splash of paint, a place to sit, a popup park or playground bring life and a sense of fun to our cities.

Neighborhoods where people look out for each other, eat together, make art and build community are healthier, happier, greener and cleaner. Journey around the world to discover how people have been dreaming up new ways to ensure their cities and neighbourhoods are creative, inclusive and environmentally sustainable.

These placemaking ideas can be big — like the skateboard park built on the grounds of an orphanage in Nairobi, Kenya — or small — like the painted rock snake that winds along a beach in Toronto, Ontario. Together, we can create public spaces where everyone belongs. Includes a list of ideas for children to get involved in their neighborhoods, along with a glossary and sources for further reading.

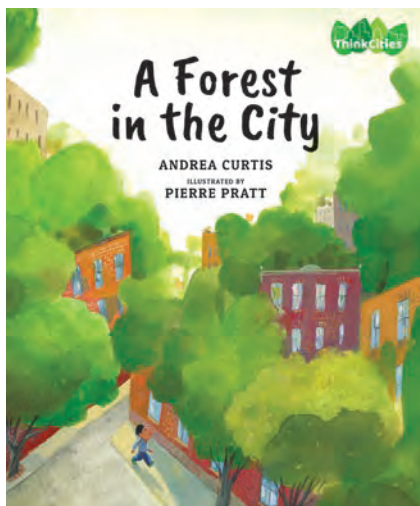
The ThinkCities series is inspired by the urgency for new approaches to city life as a result of climate change, population growth and increased density. It highlights the challenges and risks cities face, but also offers hope for building resilience, sustainability and quality of life as young people advocate for themselves and their communities.

ANDREA CURTIS's children's non-fiction titles include *A Forest in the City*, *City of Water*, *City Street are for People* and *City of Neighbors* in the ThinkCities series. She has also written the young adult novel *Big Water*. Andrea lives with her family in Toronto, Ontario, where she grows veggies, explores the ravines and spends as much time as possible on her bike.

KATY DOCKRILL is an honors graduate from Ontario College of Art and Design. Her fresh brush-and-ink illustrations have attracted a wide range of clients, and she has won a number of awards for her editorial work. She has illustrated *City of Water* and *City of Neighbors* in the ThinkCities series and *A Voice for the Spirit Bears* by Carmen Oliver, among other titles, as well as many covers for children's novels. Katy lives with her family in Toronto, Ontario.

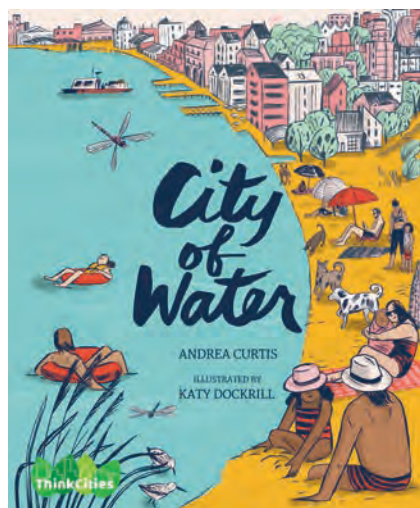


“Educational and stylish.” — Kirkus Reviews



A FOREST IN THE CITY by Andrea Curtis, illustrated by Pierre Pratt (2020)
Rights Sold: Korean (Namubooks)

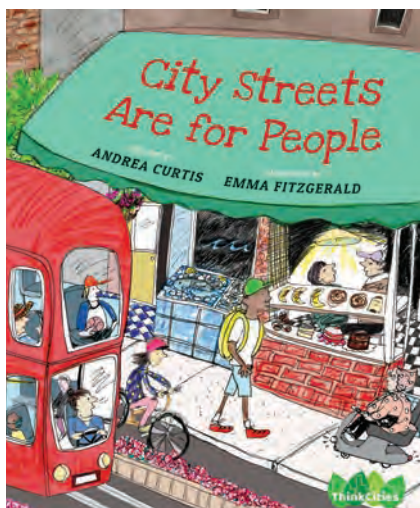
The first installment in Groundwood’s ThinkCities series offers a close look at urban forests and dives into the question of how we can live in harmony with city trees. Trees make our cities more beautiful and provide shade, but they also fight climate change and pollution, benefit our health and connections to one another, provide food and shelter for wildlife and much more. Yet city trees face many problems, such as the abundance of concrete, poor soil and challenging light conditions. *A Forest in the City* invites readers to discover, appreciate and nurture city forests, and includes a list of actionable steps that readers can take to make a difference — tree by tree.



CITY OF WATER by Andrea Curtis, illustrated by Katy Dockrill (2021)
Rights Sold: German (Gerstenberg), Korean (Namubooks)

A JLG Selection

Living in cities where water flows effortlessly from our taps and fountains, it’s easy to take it for granted. The second book in the ThinkCities series explores water as a precious, limited resource, tracing its journey from source, through the city, and back again. Along the way we discover fun and surprising facts: some of the earliest cities with water systems date back to the Indus Valley in 2500 BC; some water fountains in Paris offer sparkling water; and scientists are working to extract microscopic particles of precious metals found in sewage. More than 2 billion people in the world are without access to safe, fresh water at home. As the world’s population grows, along with pollution and climate change, access to clean water is becoming an increasingly urgent issue. Readers are encouraged to take action to protect our cities and watersheds.



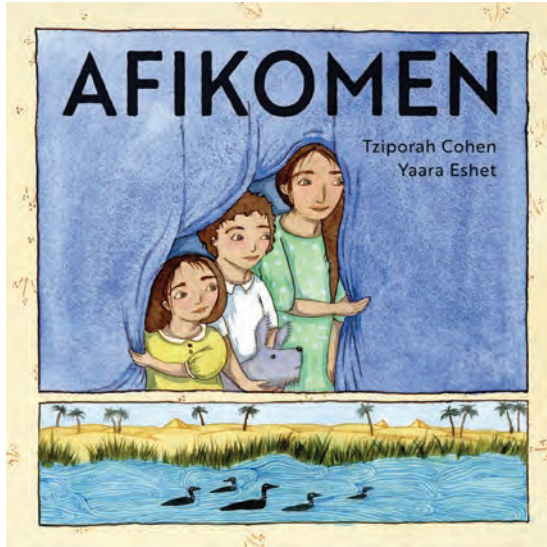
CITY STREETS ARE FOR PEOPLE by Andrea Curtis, illustrated by Emma FitzGerald (2022)
Rights Sold: Korean (Namubooks)

City streets are noisy and congested with cars and trucks, while pedestrians and cyclists are squeezed to the dangerous edges — but does it have to be this way? The third book in the ThinkCities series explores the urgent need for sustainable transportation in and around our cities. Fun, accessible, and ultimately hopeful, the book looks at green transportation and solutions all over the globe. Readers discover Oslo’s car-free city center, magnetic levitation trains in Shanghai, wind-powered trains in the Netherlands, and even pedal-powered school buses in France! *City Streets Are for People* invites us to conjure up a city of the future, where these modes are all used together to create a place that is sustainable, healthy, accessible and safe.



GROUNDWOOD

Award-winning middle-grade author Tziporah Cohen returns with her debut picture book, *Afikomen*

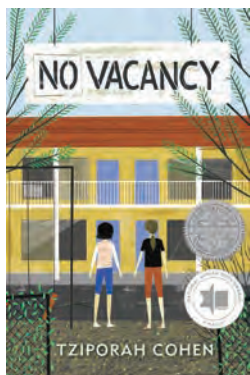


In this wordless time-travel adventure, three children at a Passover seder visit ancient Egypt to help baby Moses find his way safely to Pharaoh's daughter.

Includes an author's note about the meaning of the Passover holiday and about different afikomen traditions.

World rights available

3 to 6 years | Extent: 32 pp | Trim: 9.00 in x 9.00 in



With the help of her Catholic friend, an eleven-year-old Jewish girl creates a provocative local tourist attraction to save her family's failing motel.

Tziporah Cohen's debut middle-grade novel *No Vacancy* has garnered many accolades including a Jean Little First-Novel Award, and was named an honor book for the Sydney Taylor Award, a finalist for the National Jewish Book Award, a Silver Birch selection, a Junior Library Guild selection, a PJ Library selection, a Diamond Willow finalist, and a finalist for the Hackmatack Children's Choice Book Award.

English Audio rights sold to Recorded Books – All other world rights available.
9 to 12 years | Extent: 224 pp | Trim: 5.00 in x 7.50 in

TZIPORAH (TZIPPY) COHEN was born and raised in New York and spent eighteen years in Boston before landing in Canada, where she now lives with her family. Many years after graduating from Harvard Medical School, she received an MFA in Writing for Children and Young Adults from Vermont College of Fine Arts. She now splits her time between writing and working as an oncology/palliative care psychiatrist.



Illustration from *The Animals Come Out* by Susan Vande Griek, illustrated by Josée Bisailon. Publishing September 2023. World rights available.