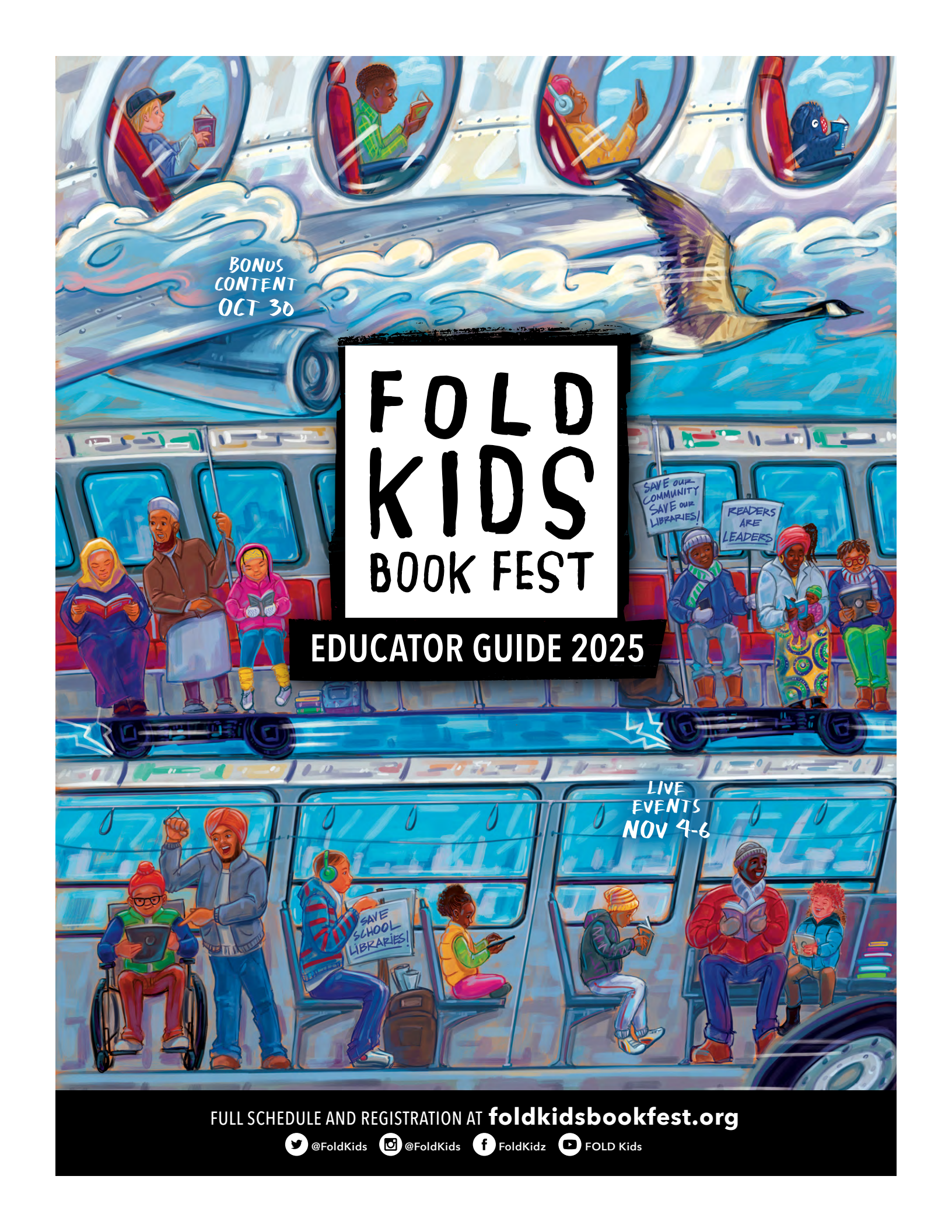




BONUS
CONTENT
OCT 30

FOLD KIDS BOOK FEST

EDUCATOR GUIDE 2025

LIVE
EVENTS
NOV 4-6

FULL SCHEDULE AND REGISTRATION AT foldkidsbookfest.org



@FoldKids



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FOLD Kids

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GETTING STARTED

Hello and welcome to FOLD Kids Book Fest's 2025 Educator Guide! This guide was created to help educators engage with their students while attending the virtual sessions. We have also included connections to the Ontario curriculum. The pre- and post-activities below can be used for all our events. The exercises throughout are deeper dives into specific sessions and the author profiles are meant to find out more about the creatives participating in this year's virtual festival.

PRE-EVENT ACTIVITY

Before experiencing a virtual session, look up the authors. Make note of the books they've written and discover a little bit about them.

1. What made you choose this writer or illustrator?
2. What was the most interesting thing you learned about them?
3. Share why you chose the author and what you learned about them with your classmates and teacher. Prepare one question that you would ask them if you got the chance.

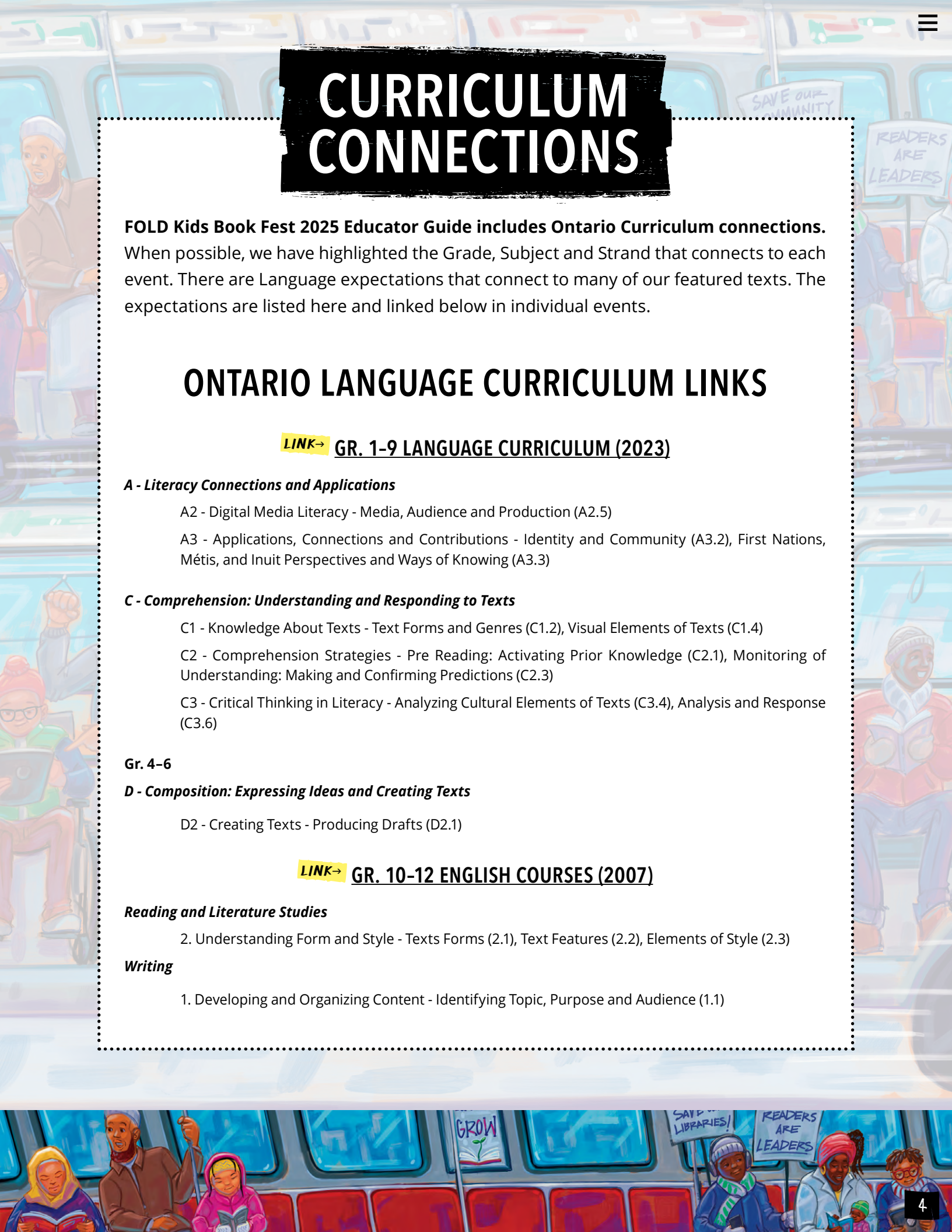
POST-EVENT ACTIVITY

After experiencing the virtual session, identify:

- a) three things you learned,
- b) two things you found interesting, and
- c) one question you still have about writing or about one of the authors

VISIT THE **LIBRARY IN OUR VIRTUAL CLUBHOUSE FOR SOME EDUCATOR RESOURCES AND MORE STUDENT ACTIVITIES.**

CHECK OUT THE **SCAVENGER HUNT FOR A FUN ACTIVITY TO INCORPORATE INTO THE CLASSROOM.**



CURRICULUM CONNECTIONS

FOLD Kids Book Fest 2025 Educator Guide includes Ontario Curriculum connections.

When possible, we have highlighted the Grade, Subject and Strand that connects to each event. There are Language expectations that connect to many of our featured texts. The expectations are listed here and linked below in individual events.

ONTARIO LANGUAGE CURRICULUM LINKS

LINK→ GR. 1-9 LANGUAGE CURRICULUM (2023)

A - Literacy Connections and Applications

A2 - Digital Media Literacy - Media, Audience and Production (A2.5)

A3 - Applications, Connections and Contributions - Identity and Community (A3.2), First Nations, Métis, and Inuit Perspectives and Ways of Knowing (A3.3)

C - Comprehension: Understanding and Responding to Texts

C1 - Knowledge About Texts - Text Forms and Genres (C1.2), Visual Elements of Texts (C1.4)

C2 - Comprehension Strategies - Pre Reading: Activating Prior Knowledge (C2.1), Monitoring of Understanding: Making and Confirming Predictions (C2.3)

C3 - Critical Thinking in Literacy - Analyzing Cultural Elements of Texts (C3.4), Analysis and Response (C3.6)

Gr. 4-6

D - Composition: Expressing Ideas and Creating Texts

D2 - Creating Texts - Producing Drafts (D2.1)

LINK→ GR. 10-12 ENGLISH COURSES (2007)

Reading and Literature Studies

2. Understanding Form and Style - Texts Forms (2.1), Text Features (2.2), Elements of Style (2.3)

Writing

1. Developing and Organizing Content - Identifying Topic, Purpose and Audience (1.1)



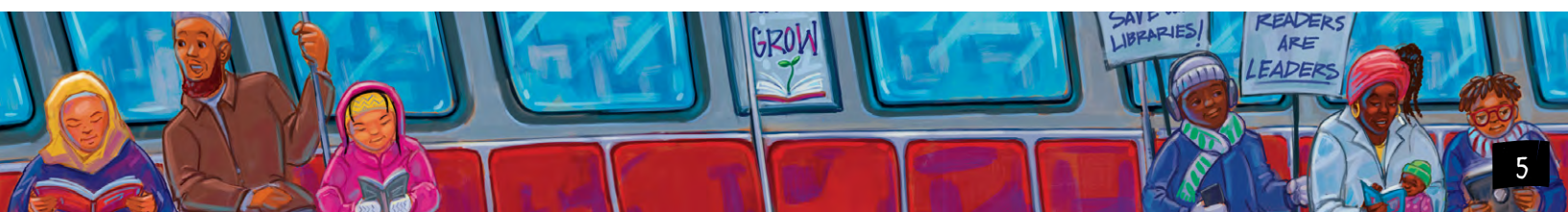
Author **Danesh Mohiuddin** leads kids through an art demo using their favourite memory with a caretaker and creature-fy them on the page. Inspired by his picture book, *Mummy and Me: A Monster's Tale*, attendees are encouraged to take out their pencil and paper for this Halloween themed bonus event. Grades K-3.

Discussion Questions

- **Before Reading/Predict:**
 1. Look at the cover of the book before reading. What might happen in this story? Who are the characters on the cover?
- **After Reading/Connect:**
 1. What part of the Wee Wolf's bedtime routine is familiar to you? How do you get ready in different ways than Wee Wolf?

CURRICULUM CONNECTIONS

- **Gr. 1 Health and Physical Education: Human Development**
- See **Ontario Language Curriculum** (page 4)





In this annual storytelling event, Deaf artist and actress **Gaitrie Persaud-Killings** presents the incredible children's book *Patty Dreams* by Nadia L. Hohn and Sahle Robinson in American Sign Language (ASL). Suitable for children of all ages, this ASL storytelling event provides viewers with an opportunity to learn a few signs as they discover the art of ASL storytelling. Oral translation will be provided by an ASL interpreter. Grades K-3.

Discussion Questions for the Session

1. ASL is a language. What languages do you speak? How did you learn that language? How might you learn more ASL?
2. What is one word you learned in ASL that you want to remember?

Discussion Questions for the Book

• Before Reading/Predict:

1. What is your favourite food? Where do you get this food? Does someone in your family make it or do you buy it from a local store or restaurant?

• While Reading/Infer:

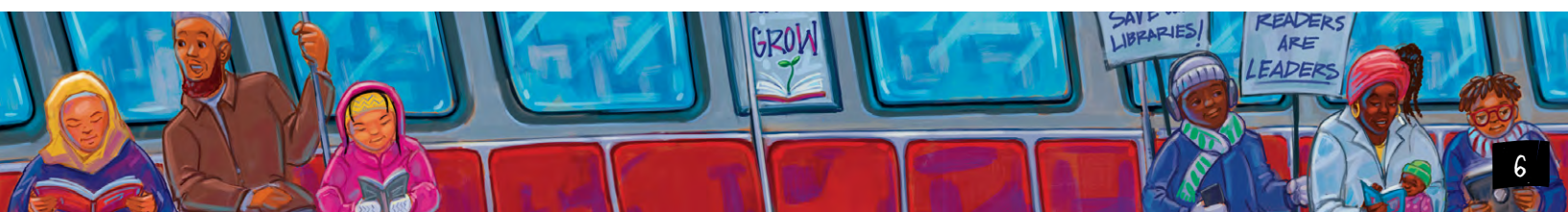
1. When August and his family start to make patties again in their kitchen in Canada why is the whole family smiling?

• After Reading/Connect:

1. Which food reminds you of your family or friends? When do you get to eat this food (i.e., special time of year, special place etc.)?

CURRICULUM CONNECTIONS

- **Gr. 1 Social Studies – People and the Environments:** *The Local Community*
- **Gr. 2 Social Studies – Heritage and Identity:** *Changing Family and Community Traditions*
- See Ontario Language Curriculum (page 4)





In this storytime event, author **Shiva Delsooz** reads from her picture book, *It Began with a Buzz*, which follows a girl who discovers that music helps her to cope with the buzzing in her ear. The reading will be followed by an activity. Grades K–3.

Discussion Questions

- **Before Reading/Connect:**

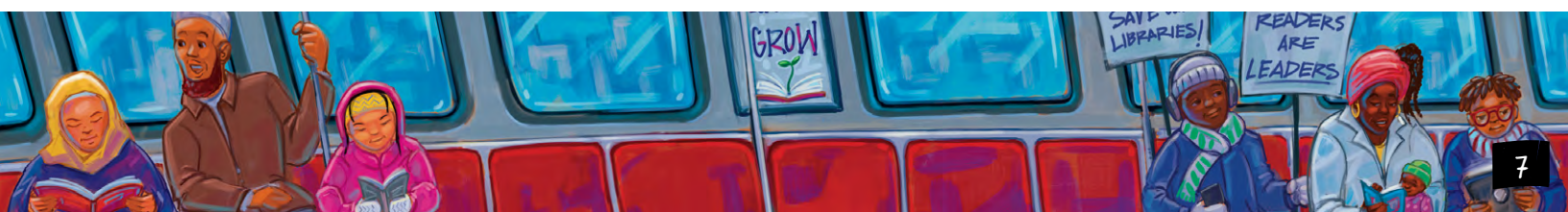
1. Do you or someone you know use an assistive device to help with movement, learning or quality of life (i.e., wheelchair, walker, glasses, hearing aids, Google Read & Write).

- **While Reading/Observe:**

1. Look at the main character's face in the first few illustrations in the story.
2. How is she feeling?
3. Why does she feel that way?

CURRICULUM CONNECTIONS

- **Gr. 1 Health and Physical Education:** *Human Development*
- See **Ontario Language Curriculum** (page 4)





Big feelings can feel overwhelming but learning how to understand and calm them makes a big difference. In this special storytime, author **Briana Corr Scott** shares her picture book, *I Lost a Day*, and guides kids through simple breathing exercises to help them self-soothe when emotions run high. Grades K–3.

LINK→ *An optional handout will be available to support classroom or at-home learning.*

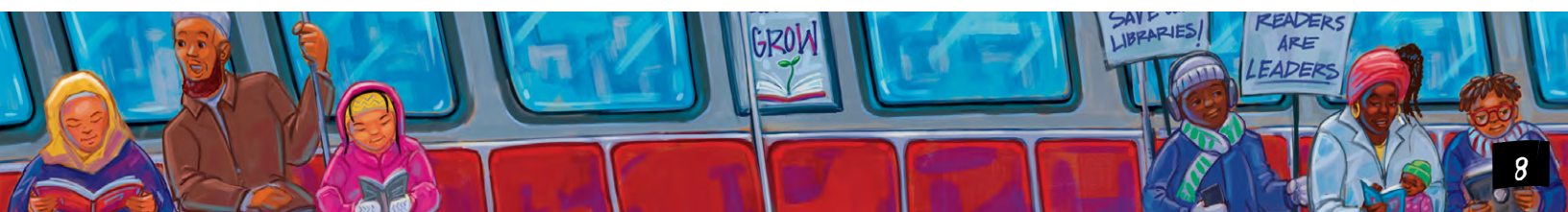
Activities to build the emotional vocabulary of your students

- Print a set of emotion flashcards (ex. [Canva](#), [LINKS](#) *Everyday Speech*) with the emotion labels.
 1. Start with simply matching the face to the word. (Display these images in your class for discussion when big feelings occur to help students identify and name their emotions.)
 2. Drama: Use the flashcards as prompts to act out a scene using the emotion.
 3. Play a memory game with 2 sets of the images.

4. Check in with students on a daily basis by asking: “How are you today?” Students can practice using the vocabulary from the flashcards to expand their vocabulary.

CURRICULUM CONNECTIONS

- **Gr. 1–3 Health and Physical Education: Social-Emotional Learning Skills**
- See [Ontario Language Curriculum](#) (page 4)





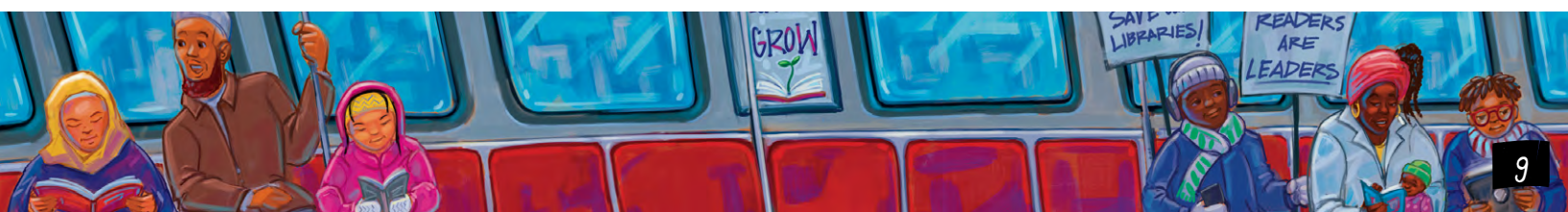
Maps tell stories but the map of Canada doesn't tell the whole truth. In this interactive session, author **Rebecca Thomas** shares her picture book *Sem's Map*, which contrasts the colonial map of Canada with the decolonial map of Turtle Island. You won't want to miss this storytime event that wraps up with a fun, hands-on mapmaking activity that will spark creativity as young readers explore new ways to see the land around us. Grades K–3.

Activities

1. Build a 3-D map of your class or school community as a class using recycled materials.
2. Students draw a map of the setting of their favourite book. Tell a friend where the characters travel on the map.
3. Students write their own stories and draw a map to match the story.
4. As you read a novel to the class, draw a map of the settings as a class to track the character's movements.
5. Discuss important places in your community. Create a map with students based on their experiences and include locations that are most important to them.

CURRICULUM CONNECTIONS

- **Gr. 1–4: Social Studies: People and Environments:**
- **Gr. 1** – *The Local Community*
- **Gr. 2** – *Global Communities*
- **Gr. 3** – *Living and Working in Ontario*
- **Gr. 4** – *Political and Physical Regions of Canada*
- See **Ontario Language Curriculum** (page 4)





Author **Mikaela Lucido** leads kids through art and writing activities while exploring the world of her novel, *Danica dela Torre, Dream Detective*. Inspired by her Filipino culture, Lucido's workshop encourages attendees to incorporate their own cultures into their creature creations. Grades 4–6.

Discussion Questions

- **Before Reading/Connect to Prior Knowledge:**

1. How does a detective solve a case?
2. What are the traits a detective would have to be good at their job?

- **While Reading/Ask Questions:**

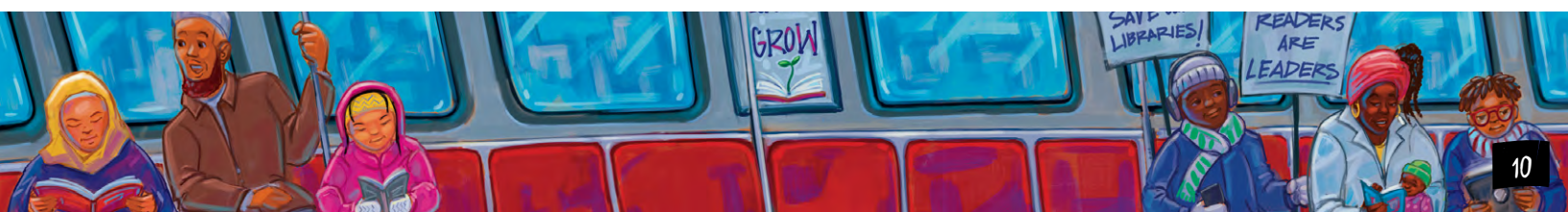
1. When have you wanted to know more about your family history?
2. Who did you ask?
3. Were you able to get answers to all of your questions?
4. If you needed more information, where could you find it?

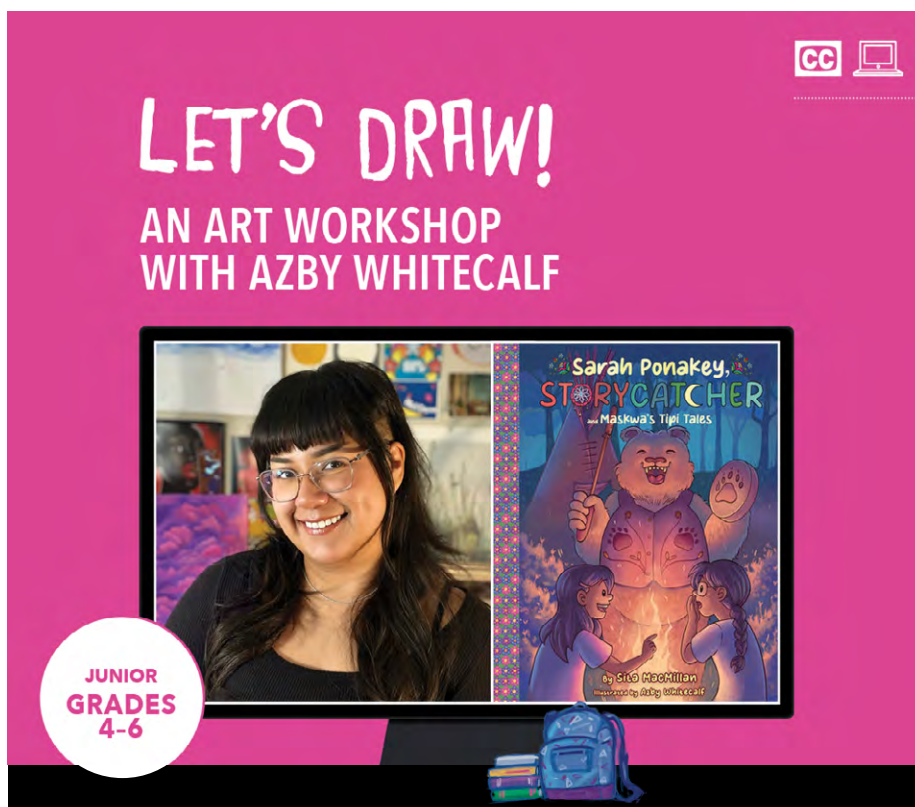
- **After Reading/Connect:**

1. What other books have you read that include mythology or folklore?
2. What do those books have in common with *Danica dela Torre*?

CURRICULUM CONNECTIONS

- See [Ontario Language Curriculum](#) (page 4)





In this art workshop for elementary students, illustrator and Silver Birch Express nominee **Azby Whitecalf** (*Sarah Ponakey, Storycatcher* and *Maskwa's Tipi Tales*) provides step-by-step instructions for the creation of an incredible work of art. Grades 4–6.

Participants are encouraged to bring a piece of paper, pencil, eraser and pen (for outlining).

Discussion Questions

• Before Reading/Explore

1. Check out Azby Whitecalf's website:
<https://www.azbywhitecalf.com/>
2. Look at their work and try to explain their style of art, then read their "about" page.

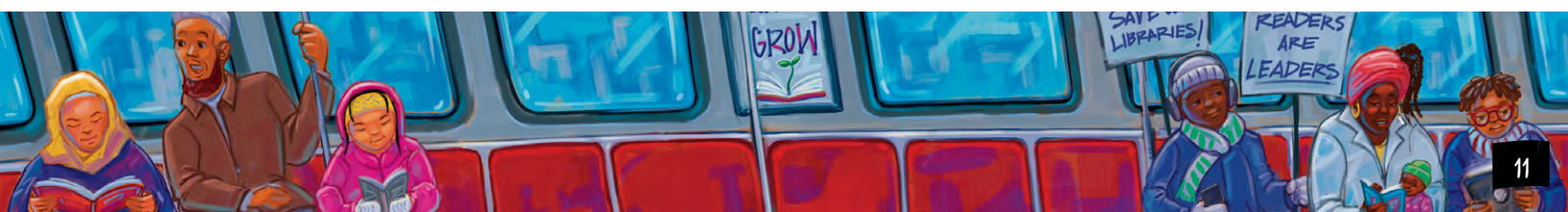
Activity

- Fold a paper into 4 rectangles.
- Choose a simple object (ex. tree) and draw the object 4 different ways (i.e., black and white, colourful, realistic, comic, pencil drawing etc.)
- What type of story would match with each of your images?

- Discuss how the style of the art in a book impacts how a reader understands the story (i.e., a graphic novel in a black and white cartoon style vs. colour illustrations in a realistic style)

CURRICULUM CONNECTIONS

- **Gr. 4–6 Visual Arts:** Exploring Forms and Cultural Contexts
- See **Ontario Language Curriculum** (page 4)





Silver Birch Express winner **Mei Yu** breaks down the creation process behind her popular graphic memoir, *Lost & Found: Based on a True Story*, before leading kids through a how-to-draw demonstration. Grades 4–6.

Participants are encouraged to bring a piece of paper and pencil.

Discussion Questions

- **Before Reading/Connect to Prior Knowledge:**

1. If you wrote a story about an important event in your life, which event would you choose?
2. Who would be some of the characters in your story?

- **During Reading:**

1. If you are new to Canada how did you feel when you started school?
2. If you were born in Canada how might you feel if you moved to a new country where you didn't understand the language?

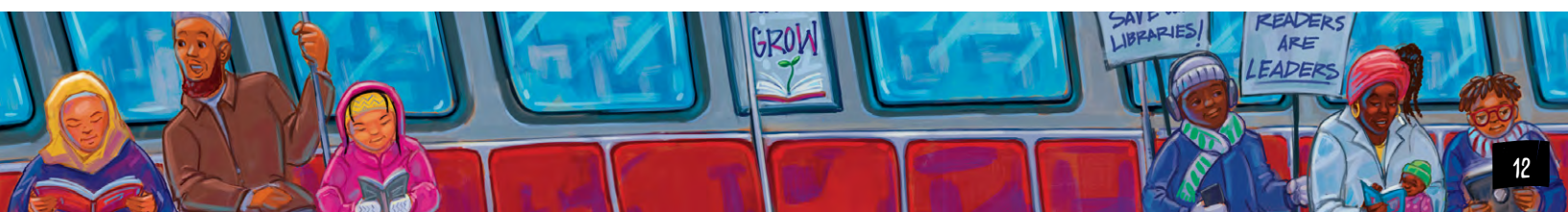
3. What are some things that helped you or may help you when you arrive in a new country?

- **After Reading/Extend:**

1. Who are some immigrants to Canada that have made a contribution to the country?
2. Research the steps Mei Yu has taken to share her love of drawing with others.

CURRICULUM CONNECTIONS

- **Gr. 6 Social Studies: Heritage and Identity:**
Communities in Canada, Past and Present
- See **Ontario Language Curriculum** (page 4)





Author **Mitali Banerjee Ruths** (*The Party Diaries: Lucky Mermaid Sleepover*) explores how paying attention to the world can spark ideas for diary writing. In this hands-on event, students will be led through the process of creating a zine—a mini-book that can be used for reflection, sketching, or storytelling. Grades 4–6.

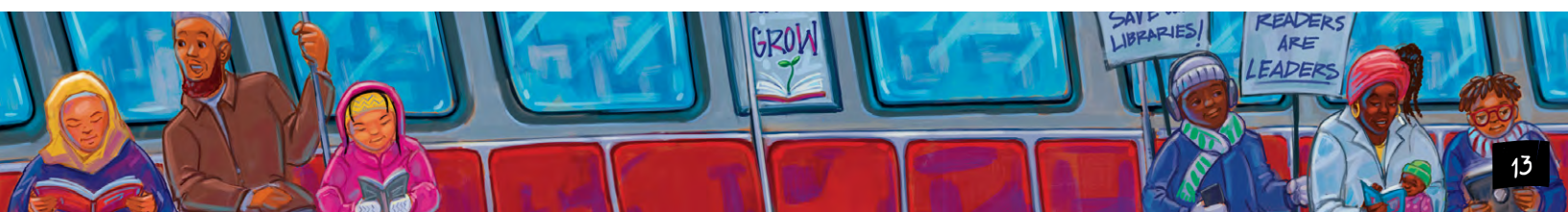
Participants are encouraged to bring a piece of paper, a pencil or pen and scissors.

Discussion Questions

- **Before Reading/Connect to Prior Knowledge:**
 1. Brainstorm a list of endangered species and how they are being threatened.
- **After Reading/Act:**
 1. What action can students and teachers take to prevent the threats to endangered animals?

CURRICULUM CONNECTIONS

- **Gr. 4 Science & Technology: Life Systems:** Habitats and Communities
- See **Ontario Language Curriculum** (page 4)





Join author **Briana Corr Scott** (*I Lost a Day*) as she leads kids through an exercise to find their happy place. This event offers attendees the tools they need to explore emotional regulation through creative expression. Grades 6–8.

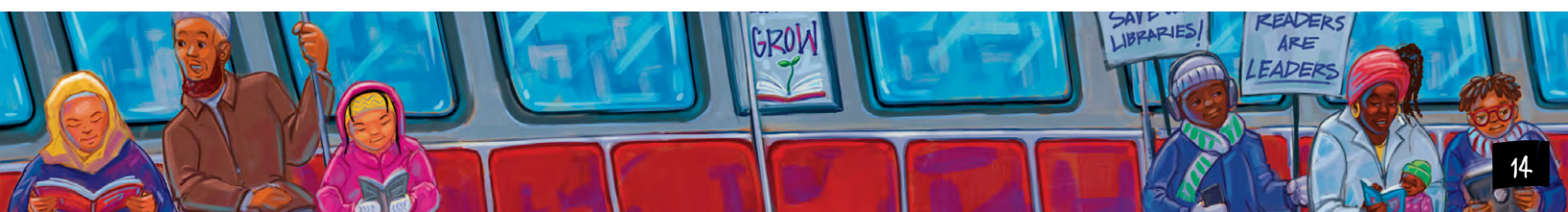
LINK→ Participants are encouraged to use the [handout](#) or a blank paper, pencil and colour pencils/crayons.

Discussion Questions

- **Before Reading/Connect to Prior Knowledge:**
 1. When do you have big feelings?
 2. What are some strategies you have tried to manage your emotions or calm yourself?
 3. Do you know any calming techniques? (As a class record strategies students are aware of as an anchor chart.)
- **During Reading/Identify:**
 1. Find the metaphor and similes the author uses to describe various emotions.
- **After Reading/Extend:**
 1. Write a poem about an emotion you want to explore. Try to include one metaphor and one simile in your poem.

CURRICULUM CONNECTIONS

- **Gr. 4-8 Health and Physical Education:** *Social-Emotional Learning Skills*
- See **Ontario Language Curriculum** (page 4)





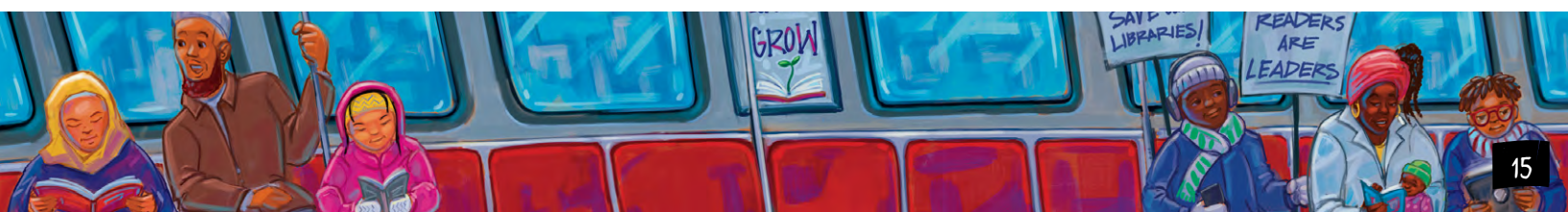
During a time of mass misinformation, thinking critically about what we read on-line is more important than ever. In this middle school event, author **Joyce Grant** (*Can You Believe It?*) explores how to differentiate between fact and fiction when navigating the web through the interactive game “Pass or Post!”. Grades 6–8.

Activity

- Divide your class into small groups. Give each group a card with “Pass” or “Post”. The group needs to create a social media post that is real or fake using a headline or image. Students will need to explain how they found their reliable information or how they created the “fake news”. Once every group has created their fake or real posts, have the groups guess each other’s posts as real or fake using their “Pass” or “Post” cards.
- Extend: Discuss the concepts of opinion, point of view and bias. Can you find a headline online that demonstrates bias?

CURRICULUM CONNECTIONS

- **Gr. 6–8 Language: Literacy Connections and Applications:** Digital Media Literacy
- See [Ontario Language Curriculum](#) (page 4)





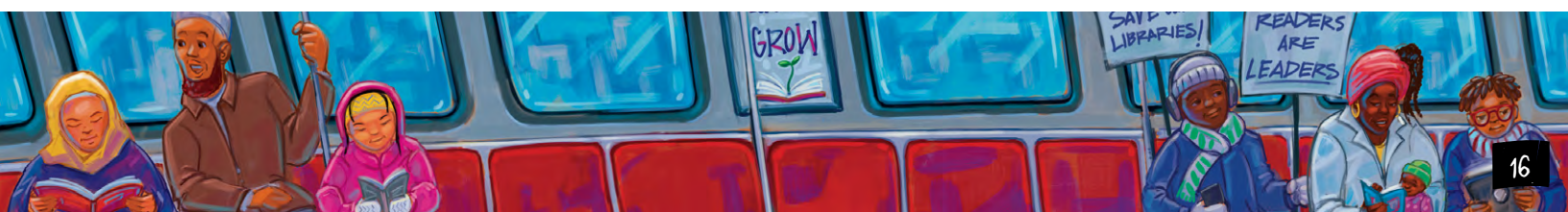
Our annual illustrator battle is back! Watch as a brand-new lineup of artists battle it out from their own drawing tables in a series of hilarious, interactive challenges. Featuring Canadian illustrators **Mei Yu**, **Azby Whitecalf**, and our Illustrator-in-Residence **Ken Daley**, with host **Ardo Omer** and special guest **Marty Chan**, this virtual event is packed with creativity, comedy, and artistic talent. Grades 6–8.

Discussion Questions

1. Each of the illustrators had their own unique art style. Which art style did you enjoy the most?
2. Why do you think it's important to develop your own style whether it is in illustrating or other parts of your lives?

CURRICULUM CONNECTIONS

- **Gr. 4–6 Visual Arts:** Exploring Forms and Cultural Contexts
- See **Ontario Language Curriculum** (page 4)





Award-winning author **Uma Krishnaswami** (*The Sunshine Project*) invites students to think about the ways stories can inspire change in their own communities. Drawing on the popular Book Uncle trilogy, Krishnaswami explores how her characters take action and become activists in response to the world around them and leads students through an interactive activity to create a collaborative list poem—an imaginative exercise that highlights the power of individual voices joined together. Grades 6–8.

Discussion Questions

- **Before Reading/Connecting to Community:**

1. Make a list of things you like about your community.
2. Then make a list of things you think need to be improved in your community.

- **During Reading/Questioning:**

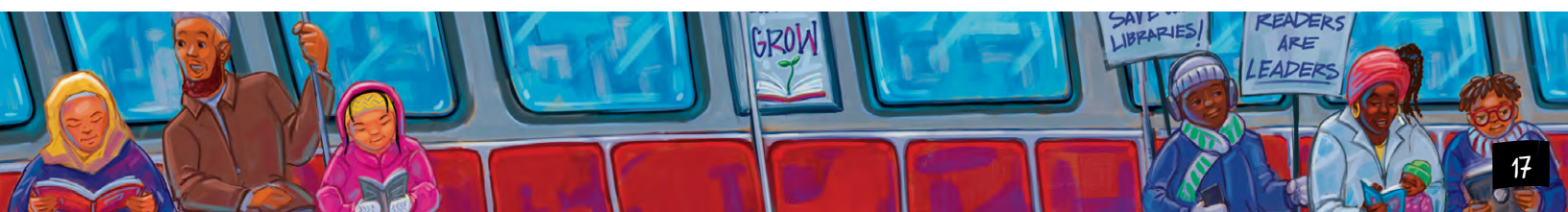
1. Is there an issue in your community that affects many people in a negative way?
2. Who could you ask to find out more about this issue?
3. How will people be affected if no action is taken?

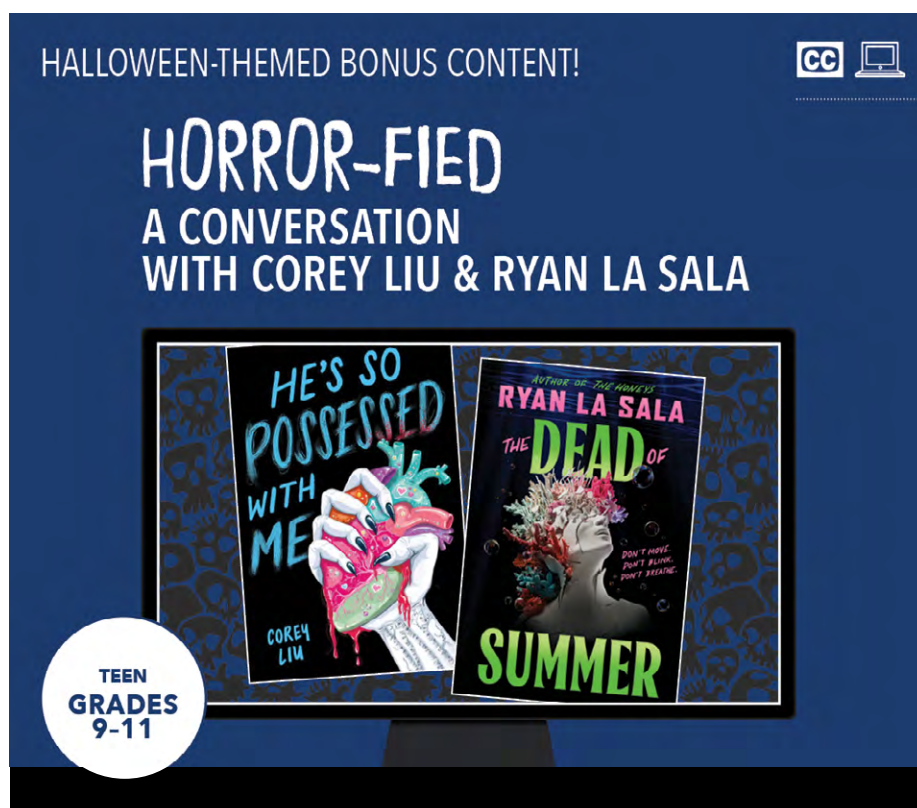
- **After Reading/Act:**

1. Which challenge in your community can you take action on?
2. Who can help you and how will you get their support?

CURRICULUM CONNECTIONS

- **Gr. 7 Science & Technology: Life Systems:** Interactions in the Environment, Structures and Mechanisms: Form, Function, and Design of Structures
- **Gr. 8 Science & Technology: Structures and Mechanisms:** Systems in Action, Earth and Space Systems: Water Systems
- See **Ontario Language Curriculum** (page 4)





Join authors **Corey Liu** (*He's So Possessed with Me*) and **Ryan La Sala** (*The Dead of Summer*) as they discuss their new novels, exploring queerness in the horror genre and the terrifying experience of getting published. This event will be moderated by **Ameema Saeed**. Enjoy this Halloween themed bonus event for Grades 9-11.

Discussion Questions

1. How does a story get published?
2. What are the roles of the author, literary agent, editor, publisher, illustrator, cover designer?
3. How long might it take for a story to get published after the author has finished the first draft?
4. What have you learned about horror writing from these authors?

CURRICULUM CONNECTIONS

- See [Ontario Language Curriculum](#) (page 4)





What does it REALLY mean to be an activist? Author **Charlene Rocha** (*You Can Be an Activist*) explores common misconceptions and examines global and local activism using the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Explore how individual strengths can make a collective impact in this timely event for teens. Grades 9-11.

Bring a pencil and the [My Activism Blueprint worksheet](#) or a blank piece of paper. [←LINK](#)

Discussion Questions

1. Name as many of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals as you can.
2. Look at a list of the 17 goals, which do you think impacts Canada the most?
3. How do you see the goals being addressed in your community?

CURRICULUM CONNECTIONS

- **UN Sustainable Development Goals**
- **Gr. 8 Science & Technology: Matter and Energy:** Fluids, Structures and Mechanisms: Systems in Action
- **Gr. 9 Science & Technology SNC1W: Biology, Chemistry**
- See [Ontario Language Curriculum](#) (page 4)





The Writer's Life series explores the journeys of writers who balance their craft with other careers, offering insights into the challenges, inspirations, and unique paths that shape a writer's life. This year, author, illustrator and story artist **Ray Xu** (*Alterations*) discusses the process behind creating his first graphic novel, what it's like creating storyboards for popular films like *KPop Demon Hunters* and *TMNT: Mutant Mayhem*, and what was his path to publishing. Grades 9-11.

Discussion Questions

1. Make a list of family members, friends, or people in your community and include the jobs they have had in their lives.
2. Choose someone from your list and think about how much you know about the jobs they have had in the past, the career they wanted when they were young and where they are working now. If you have contact with this person see how much you can find out about their journey through different jobs or careers.
3. What job or career would you like have to have in the future. What do you have to do to prepare for one of these positions? Do your choices rely on talents or passions you have now?

CURRICULUM CONNECTIONS

- See [Ontario Language Curriculum](#) (page 4)





Writing prompts can be found anywhere—a photo, a journal entry, a prescription, or even a random list in a notes app. In this workshop, author **Léa Taranto** (*A Drop in the Ocean*) helps students discover how to turn everyday primary sources into powerful stories. Grades 9–11.

Participants may use any medium to record their writing, from paper and pencil to laptops.

Discussion Questions

1. What strategies do you use to manage stress?
2. What would you tell a friend when they tell you they feel different from everyone else and are struggling with their mental health?
3. What resources are you aware of that support teens with their mental health? How do you know if a resource is reliable and safe to use?

After the Event:

1. What is the primary source (your diary, a receipt, a random list etc) you chose to write about? Why did you choose it?
2. Using the exercises that Léa goes through in her workshop, what did you end up writing? Was it something you expected to write or was it surprising?

CURRICULUM CONNECTIONS

- See **Ontario Language Curriculum** (page 4)



MITALI BANERJEE RUTHS

MONTREAL, QUEBEC

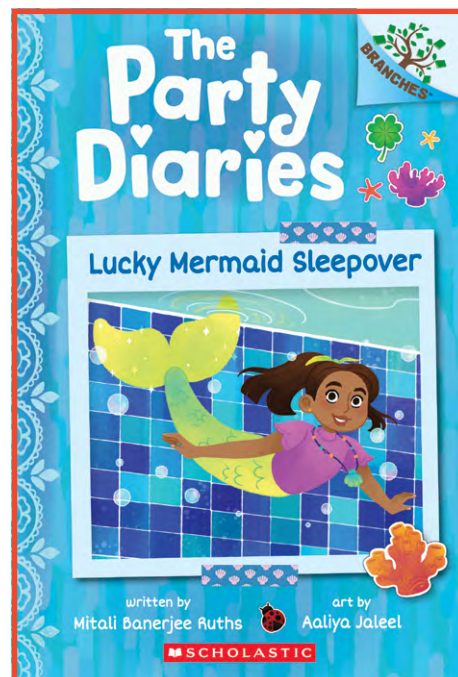


Mitali Banerjee Ruths grew up in Houston, Texas but now lives in Montreal, Canada with her husband, three kids, and their dog, Tux. When Mitali was younger, she dreamed of becoming an astronaut. Mitali has NOT gone into space, but she has done a lot of other interesting jobs! She has worked as a babysitter, an ice cream seller, and even a medical doctor. Now, she's an author! Mitali has written several popular and award-winning children's books including *The Party Diaries*, the Scholastic Branches early chapter book series, named one of the Best Books of 2023 by the New York Public Library and the Chicago Public Library.

WEBSITE: mitaliruths.com

INSTAGRAM: [@mitaliruths](https://www.instagram.com/mitaliruths)

FEATURED AT THE FESTIVAL



The Party Diaries #5: **Lucky Mermaid Sleepover** (2025)

- Ages 6–8
- ISBN-13: 978-1546137573
- Available as: Print, eBook, and through Centre for Equitable Library Access as braille, DAISY text and audio, Word and ePub

OTHER BOOKS

- *The Party Diaries* series (2023–Present)
- *The Inside Scouts* series (2024)
- *Archie Celebrates an Indian Wedding* (2024)
- *Archie Celebrates Diwali* (2021)



BRIANA CORR SCOTT

DARTMOUTH, NOVA SCOTIA



Briana Corr Scott's world is filled with islands, wild horses, seals, birds, tangled weeds, fog, oddly shaped trees, and the sea. She paints in her sketchbook as she walks along the coast and returns to her studio where she writes her stories. Briana is the author and illustrator of ten picture books with Nimbus Publishing. She is fascinated by many subjects, and has made art about Sable Island, Celtic folklore, Anne of Green Gables, and her childhood memories of living on an island in Massachusetts. She lives in Nova Scotia with her husband and three children.

WEBSITE: brianacorrscott.com

FEATURED AT THE FESTIVAL



I Lost a Day (2025)

- Ages 4–8
- ISBN-13: 978-1774713631
- Available as: Print



KEN DALEY

ONTARIO

ILLUSTRATOR
IN RESIDENCE



Ken Daley is an award-winning Black Canadian artist/illustrator who was born to parents who emigrated from Dominica. His art and illustrations are inspired by his African Caribbean heritage, and he has exhibited his work in Canada, the US, and the Caribbean. His artwork can be found in numerous private and public collections. Ken has illustrated numerous children's books and believes that diverse stories are essential to creating a more just, and equitable world, which he's deeply committed to manifesting through his art.

WEBSITE: kendaleyart.com

INSTAGRAM: [@kendaleyart](https://www.instagram.com/kendaleyart)

FACEBOOK: [kendaleyartist](https://www.facebook.com/kendaleyartist)

FEATURED AT THE FESTIVAL



The One and Only Question (2025)

- Ages 4–8
- ISBN-13: 978-1773069654
- Available as: Print, eBook, and through Centre for Equitable Library Access as braille, DAISY text and audio, Word and ePub

OTHER BOOKS

- *Saturday Morning at the 'Shop* (2025)
- *I Am Cherished* (2024)
- *Summer Island* (2023)



SHIVA DELSOOZ

LONDON, ONTARIO

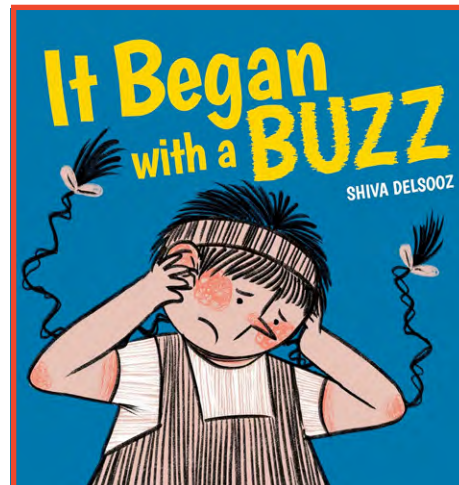


Shiva Delsooz is an Iranian Canadian author and illustrator born and raised in Ontario, Canada. She graduated from Loyalist College with a diploma in animation. Shiva has been interested in drawing since early childhood as her mother can confirm from all the little doodles under her dining room table. She grew up with severe hearing loss, and she often used art and music to cope with her situation. Shiva lives in London, Ontario.

WEBSITE: shivadelsooz.com

INSTAGRAM: [@shivadelsooz.art](https://www.instagram.com/shivadelsooz.art)

FEATURED AT THE FESTIVAL



It Began with a Buzz (2025)

- Ages 4-7
- ISBN-13: 978-1771477031
- Available as: Print and eBook

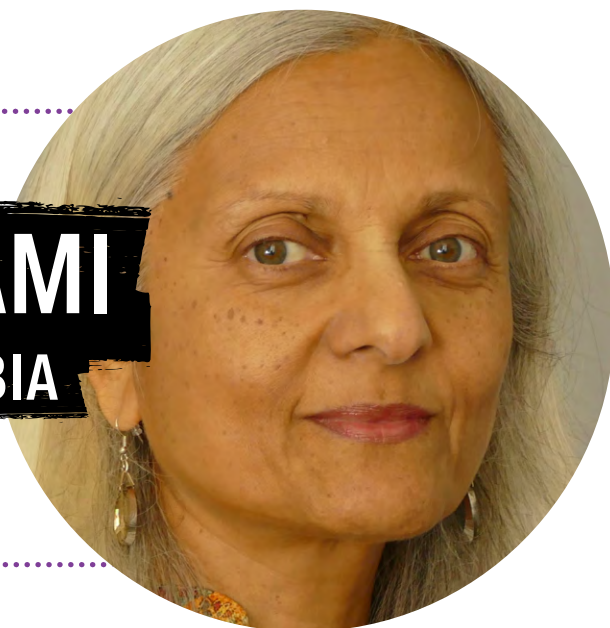
OTHER BOOKS

- *The Eidi Bag* (2025)
- *So Loud* (2024)



UMA KRISHNASWAMI

VICTORIA, BRITISH COLUMBIA



***Uma Krishnaswami** has been writing for young readers since the last century. She has written twenty-seven books and plans to write many more—picture books, poems, chapter books, early readers, short stories, nonfiction, novels. Uma lives in Victoria, BC, Canada, where she writes, walks, and plants wildflowers and vegetables in her very untidy garden. She also knits, because knitting helps her to revise her stories.*

WEBSITE: umakrishnaswami.com

FEATURED AT THE FESTIVAL



***The Sunshine Project* (2025)**

- Ages 8–12
- ISBN-13: 978-1773067797
- Available as: Print, eBook, and through Centre for Equitable Library Access as braille, DAISY text and audio, Word and ePub

OTHER BOOKS

- *Birds on the Brain* (2024)
- *Look! Look!* (2024)
- *Book Uncle and Me* (2016)



JOYCE GRANT

ONTARIO



Joyce Grant is the author of 7 books. She holds a Master's Degree in Critical & Creative Writing and a journalism degree. Joyce's latest book is *Burst Your Bubble! Outsmart the Algorithms and See What You're Missing*. Her book, *Can You Believe It? How to Spot Fake News and Find the Facts*, won best non-fiction book and best children's book at the 2023 Hamilton Literary Awards. Joyce teaches Writing for Children at Humber Polytech. An award-winning presenter, in 2010 she co-created of the popular kids' news website *TeachingKidsNews.com*.

WEBSITE: joycegrantauthor.com

INSTAGRAM: [@JGCanada](https://www.instagram.com/JGCanada)

FEATURED AT THE FESTIVAL



***Can You Believe It? How to Spot Fake News and Find the Facts* (2022)**

- Ages 9–12
- ISBN-13: 978-1525303227
- Available as: Print, eBook, and through Centre for Equitable Library Access as braille, DAISY text and audio, Word and ePub



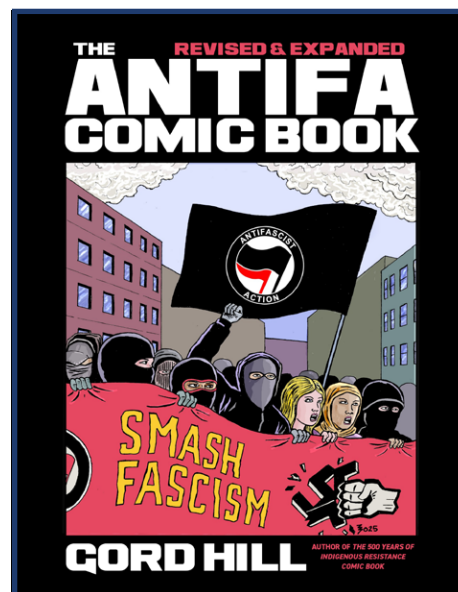
GORD HILL

BRITISH COLUMBIA



Gord Hill is an Indigenous writer, artist and activist of the Kwakwaka'wakw nation. He is the author and illustrator of *The 500 Years of Indigenous Resistance Comic Book*, *The Anti-Capitalist Resistance Comic Book*, and *The Antifa Comic Book*. His art and writings have also been published in numerous periodicals, including *Briarpatch*, *Canadian Dimension*, *Redwire*, *Red Rising Magazine*, *The Dominion*, *Recherches Amerindiennes au Quebec*, *Intotemak*, *Seattle Weekly*, *World War 3 Illustrated*, and *Broken Pencil*.

FEATURED AT THE FESTIVAL

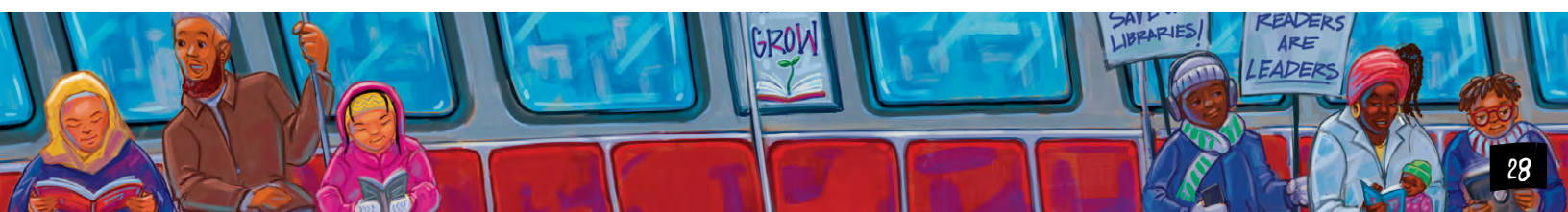


***The Antifa Comic Book: Revised and Expanded* (2025)**

- Ages: Adult/Young Adult Crossover
- ISBN-13: 978-1834050041
- Available as: Print

OTHER BOOKS

- *The 500 Years of Indigenous Resistance Comic Book: Revised and Expanded* (2021)
- *The Anti-Capitalist Resistance Comic Book: From the WTO to the G20* (2012)



RYAN LA SALA

NEW YORK, U.S.A.

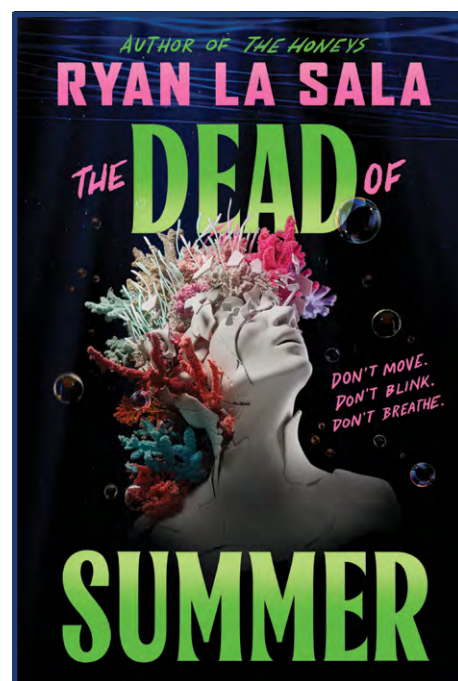


***Ryan La Sala** is a bestselling and award-winning author known for his genre defying, queer-centered horror and fantasy, including *The Dead of Summer* and *The Honeys*, which is in development to become a major motion picture. He is also the author of *Beholder*, *Reverie* and *Be Dazzled*. He has been featured in *The New York Times Book Review*, *Entertainment Weekly*, *NPR*, and more. He writes to you from New York, overseen by his cat, *Haunted Little Girl*.*

WEBSITE: ryanlasala.com

INSTAGRAM: [@theryanlasala](https://www.instagram.com/theryanlasala)

FEATURED AT THE FESTIVAL



The Dead of Summer (2025)

- Ages 14+
- ISBN-13: 978-1546125877
- Available as: Print, eBook, and through Centre for Equitable Library Access as braille, DAISY text and audio, Word and ePub

OTHER BOOKS

- *Until We Break* (2022)
- *Beholder* (2023)
- *The Honeys* (2022)
- *Be Dazzled* (2021)



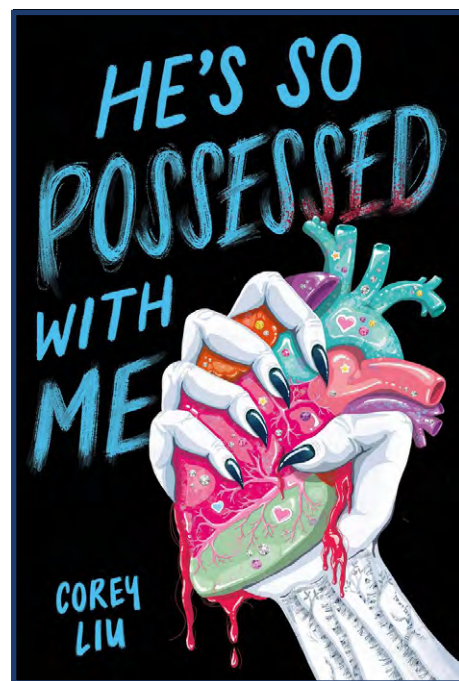
COREY LIU

VANCOUVER, BRITISH COLUMBIA



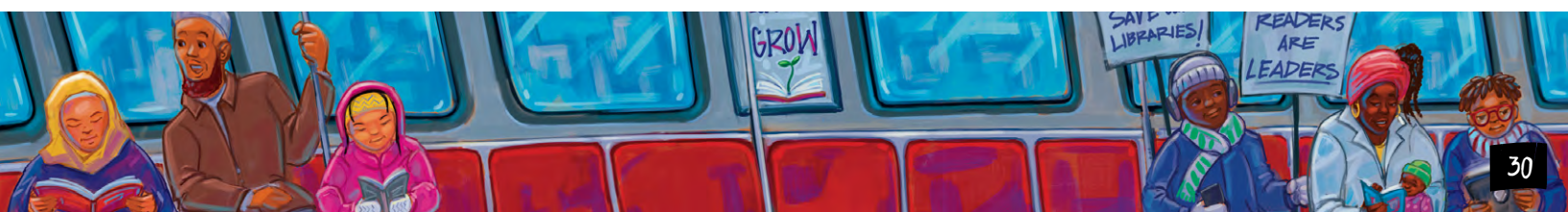
Corey Liu is novelist and television writer based in Vancouver. He loves horror movies, investigating strange noises with friends, and doing Maggie Smith impersonations when no one's around. He is definitely doing one right now. *He's So Possessed with Me* is his debut novel.

FEATURED AT THE FESTIVAL



He's So Possessed with Me (2025)

- Ages: 14+
- ISBN-13: 978-0316571845
- Available as: Print and eBook



MIKAELA LUCIDO

MISSISSAUGA, ONTARIO



Mikaela Lucido is a Filipina Canadian storyteller. She is the author of a middle-grade mystery series, including *Danica dela Torre, Certified Sleuth* and *Danica dela Torre, Dream Detective*. Her words have been featured in *Ricepaper Magazine*, *Cambio & Co.*, *Living Hyphen*, and *Augur Magazine*. She studied Creative Writing & Publishing at Sheridan College and was the 2021 recipient of the Ampersand Award. Mikaela lives in Mississauga, on the Treaty and Traditional Territory of the Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation, The Haudenosaunee Confederacy, and The Huron-Wendat and Wyandot Nations.

WEBSITE: mikaelawrites.com

INSTAGRAM: [@mikaela.lucido](https://www.instagram.com/mikaela.lucido)

FEATURED AT THE FESTIVAL

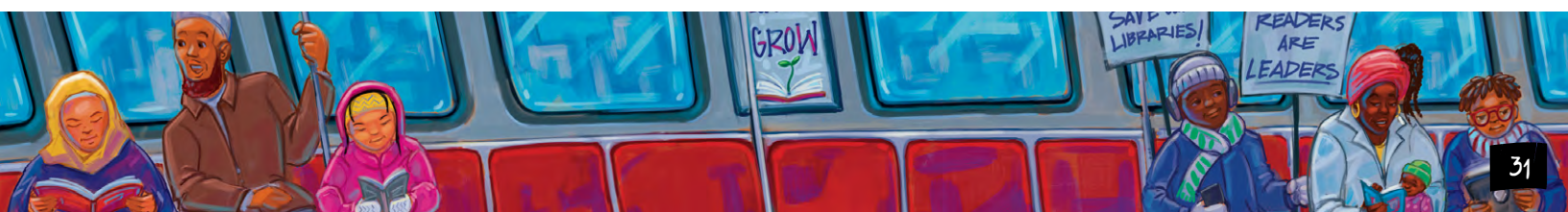


Danica dela Torre, Dream Detective (2025)

- Ages 8–12
- ISBN-13: 978-1773219776
- Available as: Hardcover and eBook

OTHER BOOKS

- *Danica dela Torre, Certified Sleuth* (2024)



DANESH MOHIUDDIN

VALENCIA, SPAIN



Danesh Mohiuddin is a Canadian Cartoonist from India, growing up in Dubai (on a regular dose of Mad Magazine, Marvel and European comics) and Toronto and now living in Valencia, Spain. He currently illustrates and writes children's books and graphic novels. Clients include Scholastic, Oxford University Press, Owl Kids and Kids Can Press. He's also a history buff and finds any excuse to travel.

WEBSITE: daneshm.com

FEATURED AT THE FESTIVAL



Mummy and Me (2024)

- Ages 3–6
- ISBN-13: 978-1771475952
- Available as: Print and eBook



GAITRIE PERSAUD-KILLINGS

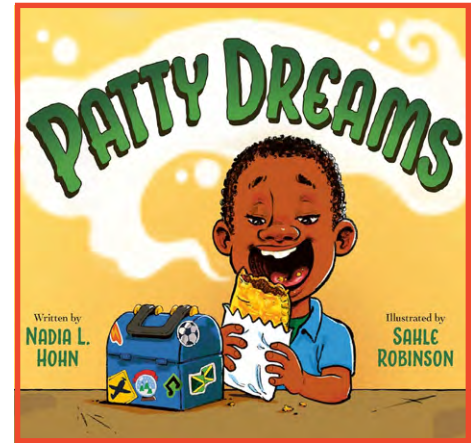


Gaitrie Persaud-Killings is a Tkaronto-raised Guyanese Deaf actor, activist and mother of three. An ASL coach and ASL music performer, she is also the founder of Phoenix the Fire, a theatre and film community hub for BIPOC Deaf artists, where she is building the support structure she finds lacking in Canada. She splits her time between Tkaranto, Ontario with her family and Atlanta, Georgia where her husband resides. Gaitrie is currently a news presenter on Sign 1news in Atlanta, Georgia as well as a regular on Nickelodeon Jr. Blues Clues & You and CBC Gem's Silly Paws, she is also on Squeaky Wheel Canada as Arianna.

INSTAGRAM: **enchante091216**

INSTAGRAM: **phoenixthefire1111**

FEATURED AT THE FESTIVAL



***Patty Dreams* (2024)**

By Nadia L. Hohn and illustrated
by Sahle Robinson

- Ages 4-7
- ISBN-13: 978-1771476027
- Available as: Hardcover



CHARLENE ROCHA

ONTARIO



Charlene Rocha is an activist and software engineering student at the University of Waterloo. She combines her passions for computer science and activism by creating coding projects for a more sustainable future. Active in campaigns for a number of causes, Charlene has recently published a book, *You Can Be an Activist*, and spoken at a TEDx event.

WEBSITE: charlenerocha.com

INSTAGRAM: [@charlenerocha_](https://www.instagram.com/charlenerocha_)

FEATURED AT THE FESTIVAL



You Can Be An Activist (2024)

- Ages 10–14
- ISBN-13: 978-1525308406
- Available as: Print and eBook



LÉA TARANTO

BRITISH COLUMBIA

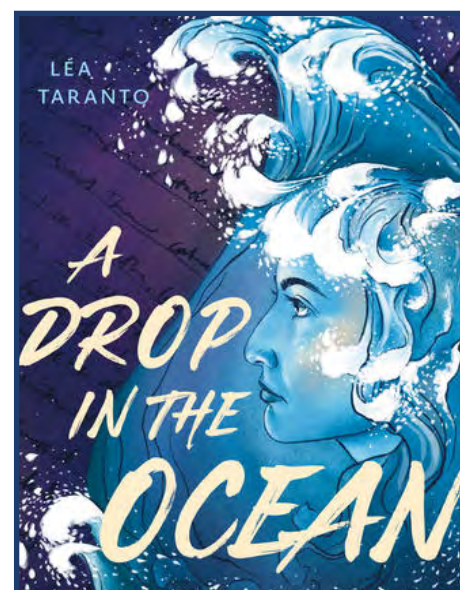


Léa Taranto is a disabled Chinese Jewish Canadian writer who lives with OCD and comorbid disorders. An MFA graduate of the University of British Columbia, alumnus of Simon Fraser University Writer's Studio, and member of PRISM International's poetry board, she resides on the traditional, unceded land of the *hən̓q̓əmin̓əm̓* (Halkomelem) and *Skwx̱wú7mesh* (Squamish) speaking peoples in BC. Her writing has been published in the anthologies *Emerge 20*, *Upon a Midnight Clear: More Christmas Epiphanies* and in various Canadian literary journals. *A Drop in the Ocean* is her debut novel.

WEBSITE: leataranto.com

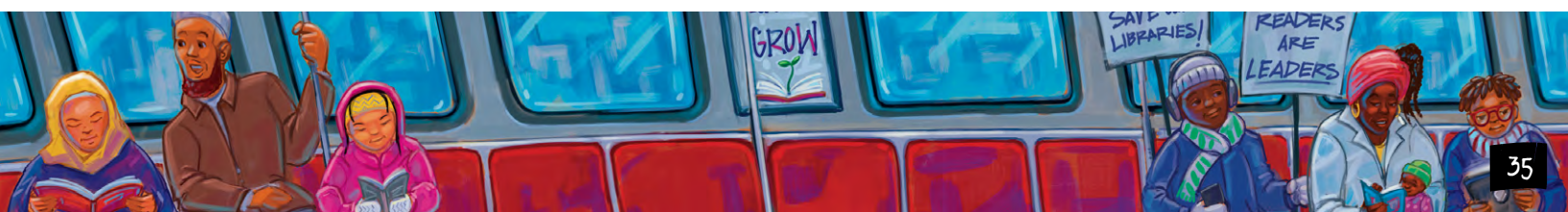
INSTAGRAM: [@leatarantowrites](https://www.instagram.com/leatarantowrites)

FEATURED AT THE FESTIVAL



A Drop in the Ocean (2025)

- Ages 13–17
- ISBN-13: 978-1551529813
- Available as: Print, eBook, and through Centre for Equitable Library Access as braille, DAISY text and audio, Word and ePub



REBECCA THOMAS

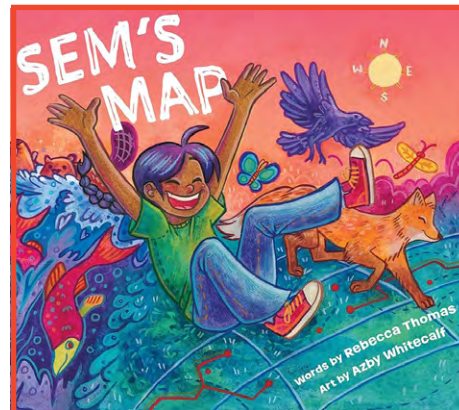
NOVA SCOTIA



Rebecca Thomas is an award-winning Mi'kmaw writer of things. Sometimes they are poems, sometimes they are childrens' books and sometimes they are love notes for family and friends. But they are always done with purpose and intention. She is a registered band member of Lennox Island First Nation in Epekwitk. Her most recent book, *Grampy's Chair*, was released in fall of 2024. She pays her bills by helping students who are overwhelmed with life and studies as a Student Services Advisor at the Nova Scotia Community College.

INSTAGRAM: [@beccaleat](https://www.instagram.com/beccaleat)

FEATURED AT THE FESTIVAL



Sem's Map (2025)

- Ages 5–9
- ISBN-13: 978-1774714966
- Available as: Print and eBook

OTHER BOOKS

- *Grampy's Chair* (2024)
- *Swift Fox All Along* (2020)
- *I'm Finding My Talk* (2019)



AZBY WHITECALF

BATTLEFORD, SASKATCHEWAN

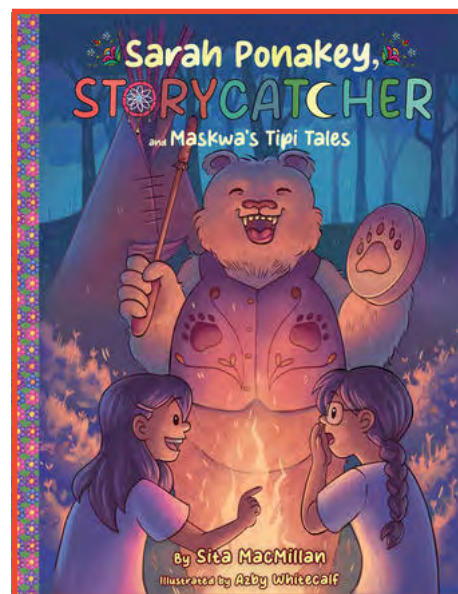


Azby Whitecalf is a Plains Cree character designer and illustrator based out of North Battleford, Saskatchewan Treaty 6 Territory. They have a bachelor's degree in visual communication (Character Design) from the Alberta University of the Arts. Their practice revolves around creating fun and exciting stories with memorable and unique characters. An important part of their practice is creating accurate and positive representation of Indigenous peoples and cultures and exploring what it is to portray Indigenous people in a way that captures their multi-dimensional identity. They enjoy working with bright colours, strong contrast and fun shapes.

WEBSITE: azbywhitecalf.com

INSTAGRAM: [@wapimostosis](https://www.instagram.com/wapimostosis)

FEATURED AT THE FESTIVAL



Sarah Ponakey, Storycatcher and Maskwa's Tipi Tales (2025)

- Ages 6–9
- ISBN-13: 978-1773219493
- Available as: Print and eBook

OTHER BOOKS

- *Sem's Map* (2025)
- *Sarah Ponakey, Storycatcher and Âhâsiw's Forest Powwow* (2024)
- *The Rez Doctor* (2024)



RAY XU

TORONTO, ONTARIO

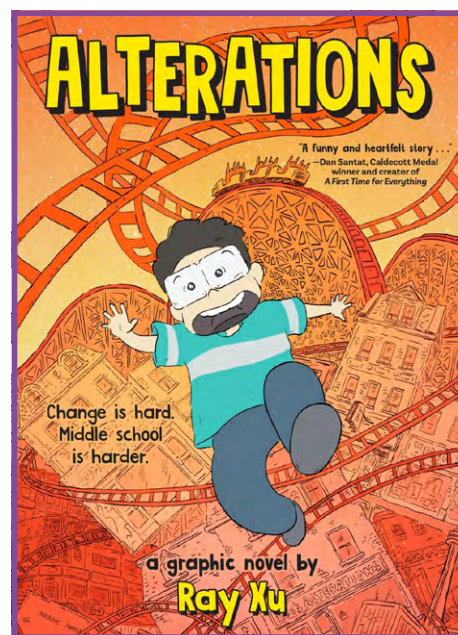


Ray Xu is the creator of *Alterations* and a story artist behind some of the biggest animated hits, including *Kpop Demon Hunters*, *Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles: Mutant Mayhem*, and the Oscar-nominated *The Mitchells vs. The Machines*.

WEBSITE: raymond-xu.com

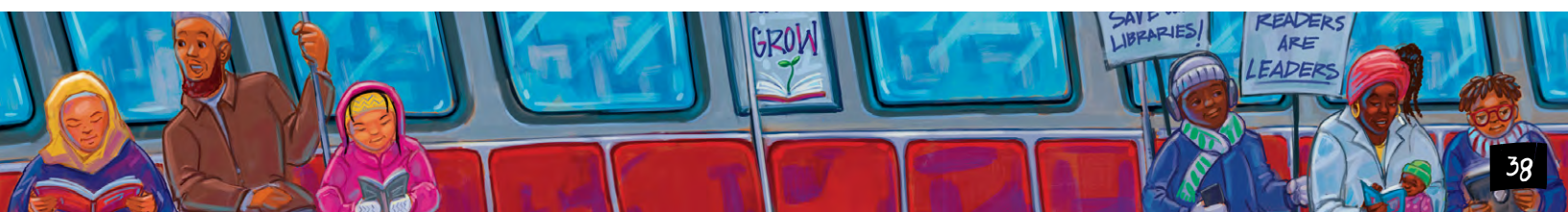
INSTAGRAM: [@rayxuxu](https://www.instagram.com/rayxuxu)

FEATURED AT THE FESTIVAL



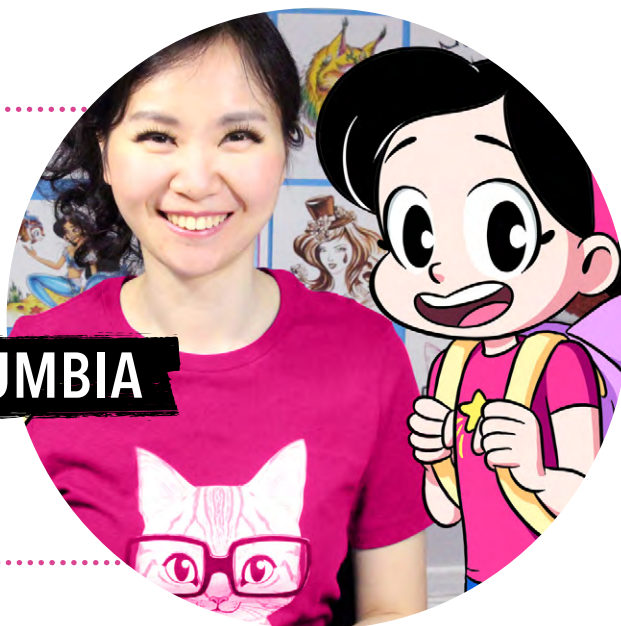
Alterations (2024)

- Ages 8–12
- ISBN-13: 978-1454945840
- Available as: Print and eBook



MEI YU

VANCOUVER, BRITISH COLUMBIA



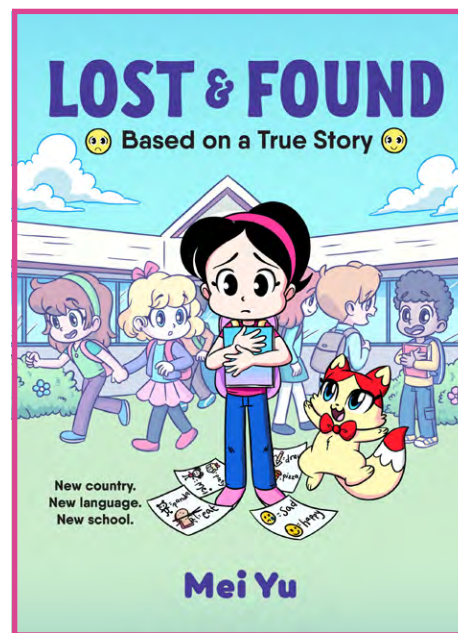
Mei Yu is a multi-talented artist and author from Vancouver. She started drawing at age 2. In her high school graduation year, she won 17 art awards and scholarships, including the Michael J. Fox Family Art Scholarship and the Teletoon Animation Scholarship. Her debut graphic novel memoir, *Lost & Found: Based on a True Story*, won the Forest of Reading's Silver Birch Express Award. Mei has also made 1,000+ YouTube art challenge videos and tutorials, with over 450 million views. Mei continues to inform, entertain, and inspire millions with her art and books. Learn more at: MeiYuArt.com.

WEBSITE: meiyuart.com

YOUTUBE: youtube.com/meiyu

INSTAGRAM: [@meiyuart](https://www.instagram.com/meiyuart)

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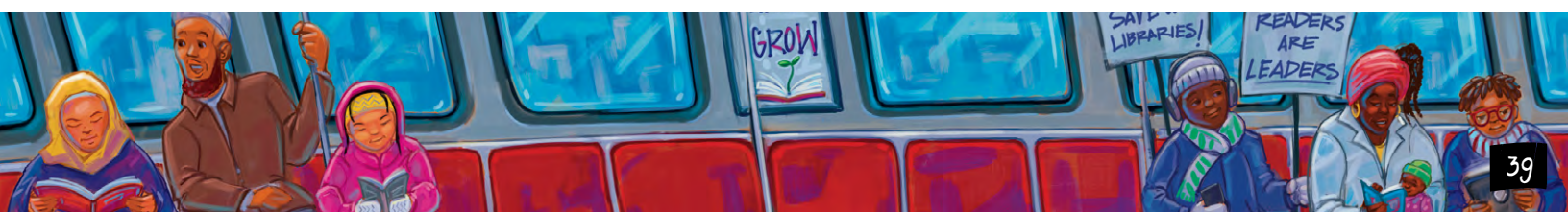


Lost & Found: Based on a True Story (2024)

- Ages 7–10
- ISBN-13: 978-1454952640
- Available as: Print and eBook

OTHER BOOKS

- *How to Draw Anime Characters* (2025)





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Art © 2024 by Karlene Harvey from *Kaiah's Garden*

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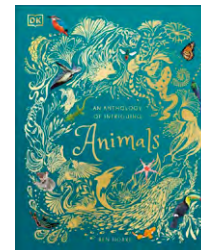
FESTIVAL BOOK LIST



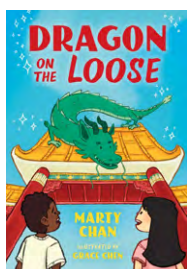
LUCKY MERMAID SLEEPOVER
By Mitali Banerjee Ruths
Illustrator: Aaliya Jaleel
5-7 years old
978-1546137566
Scholastic Canada



YOU CAN'T TAME A TIGER
By Stephanie Ellen Sy
Illustrator: Julien Chung
4-7 years old
978-1771475464
OwlKids Books



AN ANTHOLOGY OF INTRIGUING ANIMALS
By Ben Hoare
6-8 years old
978-1465477026
DK



DRAGON ON THE LOOSE
By Marty Chan
Illustrator: Grace Chen
6-8 years old
978-1459834217
Orca Book Publishers



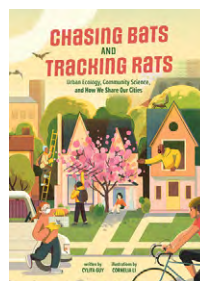
CAN YOU BELIEVE IT?
By Joyce Grant
Illustrator: Kathleen Marcotte
9-12 years old
978-1525303227
Kids Can Press



PATTY DREAMS
By Nadia L. Hohn
Illustrator: Sahle Robinson
4-7 years old
978-1771476027
OwlKids Books



I LOST A DAY
By Briana Corr Scott
4-8 years old
978-1774713631
Nimbus Publishing



CHASING BATS AND TRACKING RATS
By Cylita Guy
Illustrator: Cornelia Li
9-12 years old
978-1773215389
Annick Press



THE LAND KNOWS ME
Leigh Joseph
Illustrator: Natalie Schnitter
6-11 years old
978-0760392911
becker&mayer! Kids



THE ONE AND ONLY QUESTION
By Norma Charles & Andrea Charles
Illustrator: Ken Daley
4-8 years old
978-1773069654
Groundwood Books



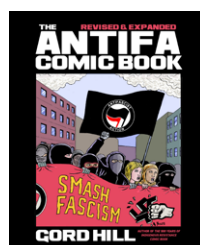
SOMETIMES I EAT WITH MY HANDS
By Kid Haile
3-6 years old
978-1773069241
Groundwood Books



THE SUNSHINE PROJECT
By Uma Krishnaswami
Illustrator: Julianna Swaney
8-12 years old
978-1773067797
Groundwood Books



IT BEGAN WITH A BUZZ
By Shiva Delsooz
4-7 years old
978-1771477031
OwlKids Books



THE ANTIFA COMIC BOOK:
Revised and Expanded
By Gord Hill
Teen Crossover
978-1834050041
Arsenal Pulp Press



THE DEAD OF SUMMER
By Ryan La Sala
14+ years old
978-1546125877
Scholastic Canada

PRIMARY

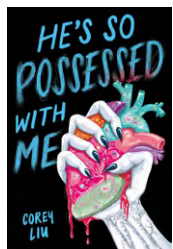
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INTERMEDIATE

TEENS

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HE'S SO POSSESSED WITH ME
By Corey Liu
14+ years old
978-0316571845
Hachette Book Group Canada



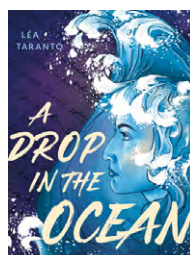
TIME SURFERS
By Kevin Sylvester
8-12 years old
978-1443475068
HarperCollins Canada



LOST & FOUND
By Mei Yu
7-10 years old
978-1454952640
Union Square Kids / Hachette Book Group



DANICA DELA TORRE, DREAM DETECTIVE
By Mikaela Lucido
Illustrator: Joanna Cacao
8-12 years old
978-1773219776
Annick Press



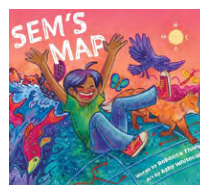
A DROP IN THE OCEAN
By Léa Taranto
12+ years old
978-1551529813
Arsenal Pulp Press



DRAW WITH MEI: How to Draw Anime Characters
By Mei Yu
8+ years old
978-1454959090
Union Square Kids / Hachette Book Group



MUMMY & ME
By Danesh Mohiuddin
3-6 years old
978-1771475952
OwlKids Books



SEM'S MAP
By Rebecca Thomas
Illustrator: Azby Whitecalf
5-9 years old
978-1774714966
Nimbus Publishing



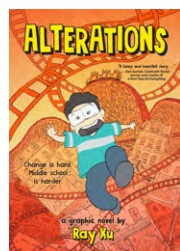
EDDY'S SHADOW PUPPETS
By Karina Zhou
3-8 years old
978-1834050188
Arsenal Pulp Press



YOU CAN BE AN ACTIVIST
By Charlene Rocha & Mary Beth Leatherdale
Illustrator: Drew Shannon
10-14 years old
978-1525308406
Kids Can Press



SARAH PONAKEY, STORYCATCHER AND MASKWA'S TIPI TALES
By Sita MacMillan
Illustrator: Azby Whitecalf
6-9 years old
978-1773219493
Annick Press



ALTERATIONS
By Ray Xu
8-12 years old
978-1454945857
Union Square Kids / Hachette Book Group

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