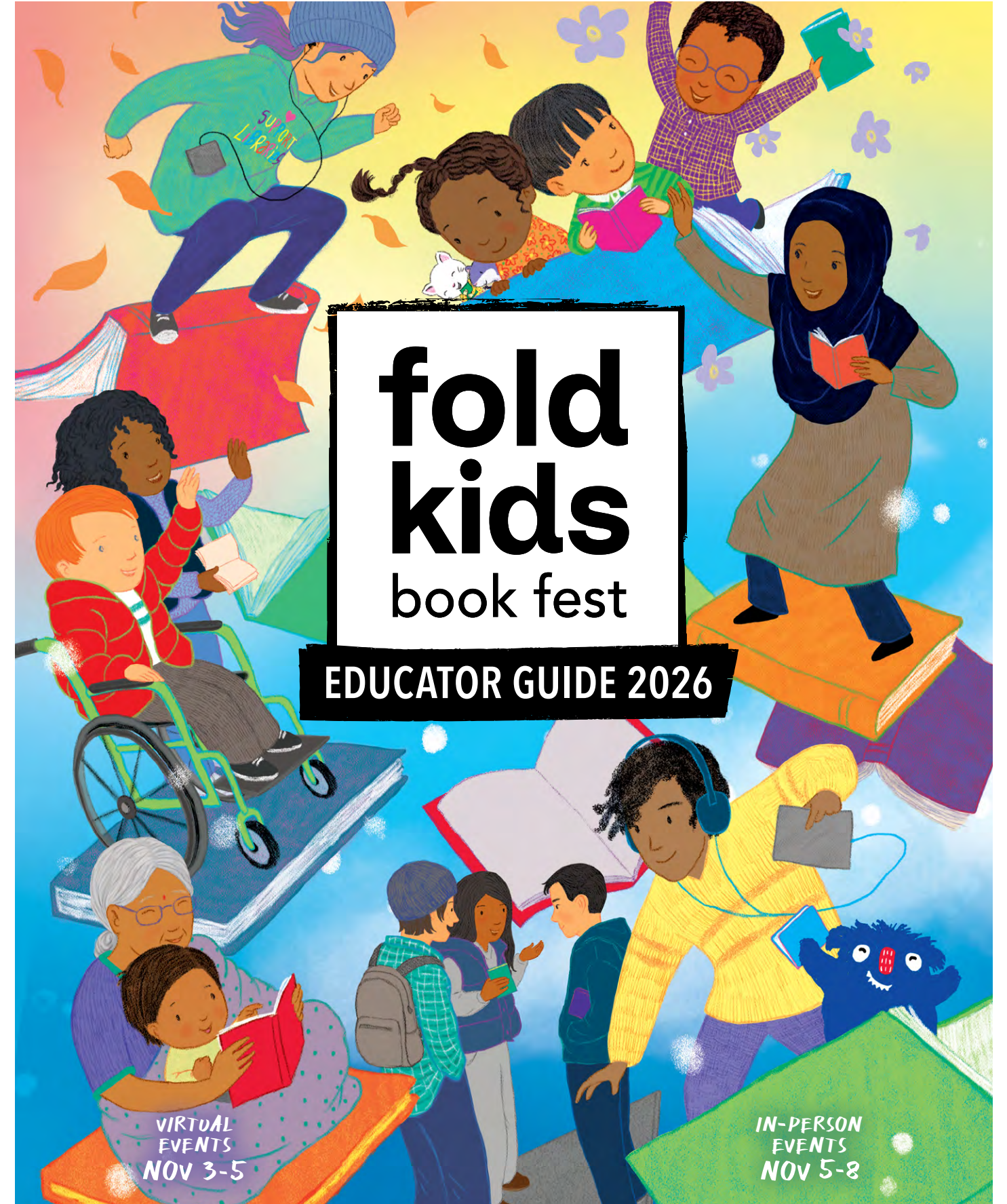




fold kids

book fest

EDUCATOR GUIDE 2026

VIRTUAL
EVENTS
NOV 3-5

IN-PERSON
EVENTS
NOV 5-8

thefoldcanada.org



FoldKids



FoldKidz



FOLD Kids

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Cover and interior illustrations by Ruth Ohi





GETTING STARTED

Hello and welcome to the 2026 FOLD Kids Book Fest 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 Individual Event Exercises that follow are designed to supplement the virtual events and support the reading of texts in the classroom and at home. In some cases, “Before Reading/Predict” activities are included to encourage students to draw on prior knowledge to allow them to predict the themes and content they might be engaging with in the story. The “During Reading/Infer” activities can be used when the story is being read to encourage students to think deeply about the content and support comprehension. The “After Reading/Connect” activities extend the learning to students’ lives or the world around them. When possible, “Related Resources” have been included to support the theme of the book and extend learning through videos and songs. These can be used before the virtual session or before reading the book to spark students’ interest.

We have also added some ideas for how to use the Author Profiles featured at the end of the Educator Guide.

PRE-FESTIVAL ACTIVITY

GET TO KNOW THE AUTHORS

Help students get ready for FOLD Kids Book Fest by exploring some of the authors and illustrators featured in programming for their age category—Primary, Junior, Middle Grade, or Teen. Invite students to explore festival bios and books and choose one creator they’re especially interested in learning more about.

Ask students to:

1. *Share one interesting thing they discovered about the author or illustrator.*
2. *Identify a book by that creator that interests them and explain why.*
3. *Prepare one question they would ask the author or illustrator if they had the chance.*

Encourage students to keep their questions handy—they may have an opportunity to ask them during a live festival event!

VISIT THE **LIBRARY** IN THE VIRTUAL CLUBHOUSE FOR ADDITIONAL EDUCATOR RESOURCES AND ACTIVITIES.

POST-FESTIVAL ACTIVITY

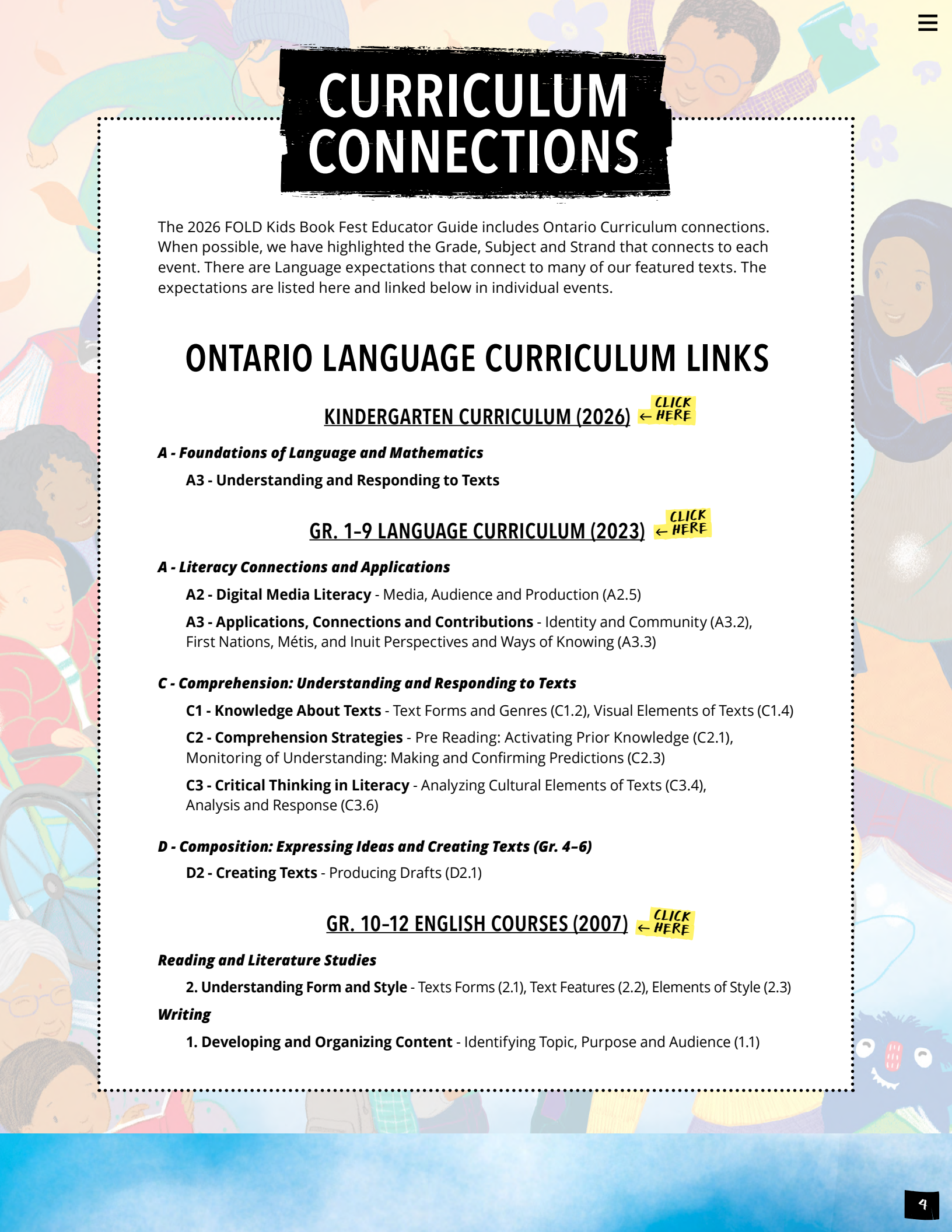
3-2-1 FESTIVAL REFLECTION

After your festival experience, give students a chance to reflect on what they heard, saw, and discovered. This can be completed individually, in small groups, or as a class discussion.

Ask students to identify:

- a) 3 things they learned
- b) 2 things they found interesting or surprising
- c) 1 question they still have about writing, illustrating, books, or one of the festival presenters

VISIT THE **SCAVENGER HUNT** IN THE VIRTUAL CLUBHOUSE FOR A FUN ACTIVITY TO COMPLETE WITH YOUR CLASS.



CURRICULUM CONNECTIONS

The 2026 FOLD Kids Book Fest 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

KINDERGARTEN CURRICULUM (2026) [CLICK HERE](#)

A - Foundations of Language and Mathematics

A3 - Understanding and Responding to Texts

GR. 1-9 LANGUAGE CURRICULUM (2023) [CLICK HERE](#)

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)

D - Composition: Expressing Ideas and Creating Texts (Gr. 4-6)

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

GR. 10-12 ENGLISH COURSES (2007) [CLICK HERE](#)

Reading and Literature Studies

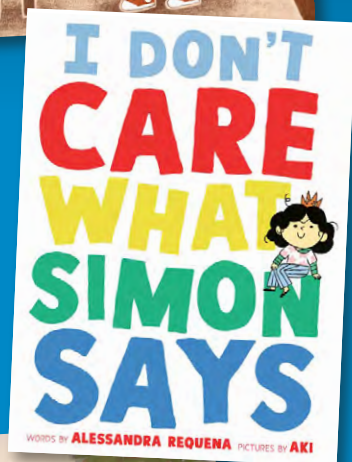
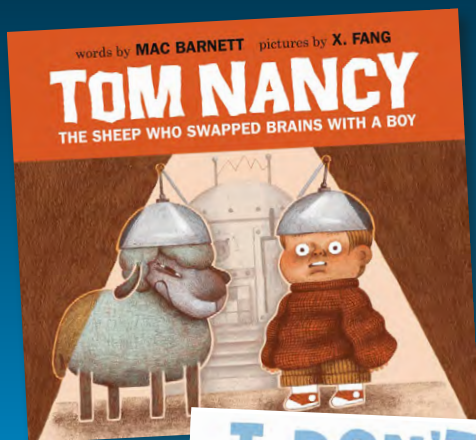
2. Understanding Form and Style - Texts Forms (2.1), Text Features (2.2), Elements of Style (2.3)

Writing

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

Bring Great Books to Life in the Classroom

PICTURE BOOKS



NOVELS



For educators' guides and activity sheets, visit
tundrabooks.com/book-extras



Penguin
Random House
Canada



INDIVIDUAL EVENT EXERCISES



In this storytime event, author and illustrator **Sid Sharp** reads from their new picture book, *Midnight Manor: A Backwards Bedtime Book*, before leading kids through a haunted house art project! Students are encouraged to have construction paper, safety scissors, pencils and crayons handy for this Halloween-themed bonus event. Grades K–3.

For Discussion:

1. Do you like creepy things? What if they were friendly? Can you think of something that seems creepy but is actually fun or friendly (animal, show, book, song)?
2. What creepy character did you like in the story? Draw a picture of a room in your home, including the creature that comes out at night.
3. **ACTIVITY:** Listen to the “Haunted House” song listed in Related Resources.

CURRICULUM CONNECTIONS

- **Gr. 2 Social Studies - Heritage and Identity:** Changing Family and Community Traditions
- See [Ontario Language Curriculum \(page 4\)](#)

Related Resources:

- [Publisher Activity Guide/Activity Sheet](#)
- [Video: Meet Illustration student Sid Sharp](#)
- [Song: Haunted House](#)



In our annual ASL storytelling event, Deaf artist and actress **Gaitrie Persaud-Killings** presents the children's book, *Being Different* by **Miali Coley-Sudlovenick** and **Alex Aldrich Barrett** in American Sign Language. Suitable for children of all ages, this storytelling experience provides students 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.

For Discussion:

1. ASL is a language. What languages do you speak? How did you learn that language?
2. What's different about learning ASL versus learning other languages? What makes it special or unique?
3. What is one word you learned in ASL that you want to remember?
4. **ACTIVITY** (Based on the Book): Watch The North video in Related Resources to learn more about the northern parts of Canada. Use the map provided to explore Northern Canada digitally. What are some names of places in Northern Canada that you heard in the video? 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

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

Related Resources:

- [Indigenous Peoples Atlas of Canada](#)
- [Video: The North - TVO Kids](#)



In this storytime event, author and illustrator **Jack Wong** reads from his new picture book, *Goodbye, Koi*, before taking live audience questions as he draws using Chinese brush painting, a new skill he learned for this book! Materials aren't required for this event, only curiosity! Grades K-3.

For Discussion:

1. How would you feel if you moved to a new place?
2. How did the fish adjust to their new home?
3. **ACTIVITY:** Choose a pet, draw a picture of a new place it might move to.

CURRICULUM CONNECTIONS

- **Gr. 1 Science & Technology:** Needs and Characteristics of Living Things
- **Gr. 2 Science & Technology:** Growth and Changes in Animals, Social Studies: Global Communities
- See **Ontario Language Curriculum** (page 4)

Related Resources:

- [Video preview of the book/Meet the Author](#)
- [Song: Cody's Moving Day Song - Cocomelon](#)



In this storytime event, author **astra márta** reads from her new picture book, *chi miigwech, big thank you*, before leading kids through a ripped collage activity of Turtle Island. Students are encouraged to bring a large piece of paper, a glue stick, a pencil and construction paper (blues, greens and browns) OR scraps of paper to colour. Live attendees will have the chance to participate in an audience Q&A. Grades K–3.

For Discussion:

1. What are things you are thankful for in your life? (examples: family, friends, toys, nature, food, water)
2. **ACTIVITY:** Choose one of the Seven Grandfather Teachings: truth, love, honesty, courage, humility, wisdom and respect. Draw a picture that demonstrates this teaching.

CURRICULUM CONNECTIONS

- **Kindergarten Belonging and Contributing:** People and Communities, Respect and Care for Nature
- **Gr. 1 Science & Technology:** Needs and Characteristics of Living Things
- See **Ontario Language Curriculum** (page 4)

Related Resources:

- [Story: Chi Miigwech, Big Thank You Read Aloud - CBC Kids](#)
- [Song: Miigwetch Honour Song - ONWA Virtual Drum Book](#)
- [Learn the Seven Sacred Teachings with Author Sandra Samatte - CBC Kids](#)



In this storytime event, author **Roz MacLean** reads from her new picture book, *Some Body, Every Body*, before taking kids through an art activity of drawing different types of bodies, and practicing curiosity for what their bodies can do. Students are encouraged to bring paper and pencils (crayons and pencil crayons are optional). Live attendees will have the chance to participate in an audience Q&A. Grades K–3.

For Discussion:

1. **ACTIVITY:** Have students brainstorm all the ways you can sort your bodies (i.e., height, hair length, shoe size, shirt colour, eye colour, favourite way to move, age etc.). Use the list to sort the students. What did you notice? Was everyone in the same group all the time? What were your similarities and differences?
2. **ACTIVITY:** Allow students to create a mixed media self-portrait to explore different ways to represent themselves and their emotions. Students can share their work or put it on display to celebrate their differences. ([View Example](#))

CURRICULUM CONNECTIONS

- **Kindergarten Self-Regulation and Well-Being:** Social Skills
- **Gr. 1-3 Health and Physical Education:** Social-Emotional Learning Skills
- [See Ontario Language Curriculum \(page 4\)](#)

Related Resources:

- [Book: We Are All Different: A Celebration of Diversity!](#)
- [Song: "We Belong" Sesame Street](#)



Author **Jay Odjick** (*Kaboom: Blast Off*) knows a thing or two about superheroes. In this workshop, he takes kids through the steps of creating their own! Students are encouraged to bring paper and pencils/pens. Coloured pencils or crayons are optional. This event will have a live audience Q&A. Grades 4–6.

For Discussion:

1. How many superheroes can you name?
2. Choose 1 superhero from your list. What values do they stand for? What culture do they represent? Find out who created the superhero.
3. Do you know any superheroes that represent First Nations, Métis or Inuit culture? Assuming the answer is no, why might this be?
4. Why might an Indigenous superhero be important to introduce to Canadian culture?

CURRICULUM CONNECTIONS

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

Related Resources:

- [Article: "Indigenous superheroes take on colonialism and saving the planet in new graphic novel" - CBC.ca](#)
- [Article: "For Museums, a Better Future Means Confronting Past Wrongs" - BC Museums Association](#)



In this writing workshop, author **Danny Neville** leads kids through the process of generating story ideas, developing a plan and then writing out a six-sentence story using his chapter book series, *Little Bee*. Students are encouraged to bring paper and a pencil/pen. Grades 4–6.

For Discussion:

1. As a class make a list of all the people in your families and the names you have for them, including your immediate and extended family members. How many different names does your class have for people who are important to them?
2. Who is your best friend/s? What do you have in common with your friends? What is different about you? What makes that person your best friend?

CURRICULUM CONNECTIONS

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

Related Resources:

- [Book: A Family is a Family is a Family](#)
- [Video: What is Drag: A Fun and Kid Friendly Explanation - Canadian Pride Historical Society](#)
- [Video: Kids Meet a Drag Queen - HiHo Kids](#)



Inspired by her *Legendary Allies* series, author **Linda Trinh** leads students through a writing workshop featuring unique activities that will help students develop incredible characters who can navigate challenges as a team. Students are encouraged to bring paper and a pencil. Grades 4–6.

For Discussion:

1. What types of folklore stories do you know? Are these from your family's culture or from stories you have seen on TV or in movies?
2. Do you know of any creatures that are a part of folklore?
3. What lessons have you learned from a folklore story?
4. Do you know of any teams or duos in folklore that work together to solve problems or save the day?

CURRICULUM CONNECTIONS

- **Kindergarten Self-Regulation and Well-Being: Social Skills**
- **Gr. 3 Science** - Growth and Change in Plants
- **Gr. 4 Science** - Habitats and Communities
- **Gr. 6 Science** - Biodiversity
- See **Ontario Language Curriculum** (page 4)

Related Resources:

- [Website: Vietnam - National Geographic Kids](#)
- [Publisher Discussion Questions - Healer and the Phoenix](#)
- [Publisher Discussion Questions - Quest of the Drowned Lands](#)



Authors **Sarena** and **Sasha Nanua** lead students through a ghost story writing workshop inspired by their middle grade novel, *Spirit Service: Twice the Trouble*. In this hands-on event, they break down setting and ghosts, and what happens when your character comes face-to-face with them. Students are encouraged to have paper and pencils handy for this Halloween-themed bonus event. Grades 4–8.

For Discussion:

1. What is the scariest ghost story you know?
2. Perspective: tell the ghost story you know from the point of view of the ghost.
3. If you thought there was a ghost in your house or your school who would you tell? Who would be a good sidekick to help you investigate?
4. If you could communicate with a ghost who would you want to speak with? What would you ask them?

CURRICULUM CONNECTIONS

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

Related Resources *Spirit Service* Book #1:

- [Author Educator Guide](#)
- [Audiobook preview](#)

More Related Resources:

- [Haunted Canada Series - Scholastic](#)
- [Is My House Haunted? - Scholastic](#)



In this fun, creative writing workshop, author **Kai Cheng Thom** (*The Shapeshifter's Guide to Gym Class*) invites students to dream up their own “monster” while exploring the stereotypes and assumptions we make about people who are different from us. Get ready to write, imagine, and turn those assumptions upside down! Students are encouraged to have paper, pencils, and pencil crayons or crayons for this Halloween-themed bonus event! Grades 6–8.

For Discussion:

1. If you had the ability to be a “shapeshifter” what would you want to transform into? Would you transform physically or would you take on a new ability?
2. Does transformation often have a positive or negative association in folklore and mythology? Provide an example to support your point of view.
3. Who do you ask for advice about your problems?
4. How do you feel when adults give you unsolicited advice? Does advancing in age automatically give adults wisdom?

CURRICULUM CONNECTIONS

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

Related Resources:

- [The Shapeshifter's Guide to Gym Class: Reading Group Guide](#)



Filters, AI and social media can make anyone feel like their bodies don't fit. Join author **Olivia Pillai Quinney** (*Catch, Drive, Release, Recover*) as she shares digital resilience tools with students that they can employ when facing the barrage of messages that over-emphasize appearance. Students will leave this event with an understanding of digital red flags and a stronger capacity to identify trusted communities. Grades 6–9.

For Discussion:

1. What are the invisible stressors we have in our lives at home, school, with friends, clubs, or sports? (i.e., academic pressure, body image, cultural differences etc.)
2. What are some physical symptoms of stress.
3. Come up with 5 strategies you could use to manage stress?
4. What do you know about eating disorders?

CURRICULUM CONNECTIONS

- **Gr. 6-8 Health and Physical Education:** *Healthy Eating, Substance Use, Addictions, and Related Behaviours*
- See **Ontario Language Curriculum** (page 4)

Related Resources:

- [*National Eating Disorder Information Centre \(NEDIC\)*](#)
- [*Article: "Eating Disorders in Younger Children" - Children's Health*](#)
- [*Article: "How to Recognize Stress" - BC Children's Hospital*](#)



Our annual illustrator battle is back! Watch as a brand-new lineup of illustrators battle it out from their own drawing tables through a series of hilarious, interactive challenges. Featuring Canadian illustrators **Sid Sharp**, **Jack Wong**, and our Illustrator-in-Residence **Ruth Ohi**, with host **Ardo Omer** and special guest **Marty Chan**, this virtual event is packed with creativity, comedy, and artistic talent. Grades 5–8.

For Discussion:

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)



Did you know that scientists and engineers have used bugs as inspirations for really cool inventions? Join author **Anjali Joshi** (*Built Like a Bug*) as she shares cool inventions inspired by bugs and leads students through a design activity, followed by an interactive, live trivia game. Students are encouraged to bring paper, pencils, crayons and/or pencil crayons. This event will have a live audience Q&A. Grades 6–8.

For Discussion:

1. *What is an invention that would be hard to live without?*
2. **ACTIVITY:** *Brainstorm a list of inventions that would be helpful to have in the future. Based on your list could you get inspiration from nature to help you start planning on how one of your ideas could be created?*
3. **ACTIVITY:** *Watch the video in Related Resources to see how nature has inspired some inventions we are already using.*

CURRICULUM CONNECTIONS

- **Gr. 6 Science & Technology:** *Biodiversity*
- **Gr. 7 Science & Technology:** *Form, Function and Design of Structures*
- See **Ontario Language Curriculum** (page 4)

Related Resources:

- *Genius Inventions Inspired by Nature | Biomimicry Explained - MindRift Studio*



Join first-time authors **Sophia Hannan** (*We Were Never Here*) and **Sam Wilket** (*A Good Daughter's Ghost*) as they discuss their characters being haunted by grief and ghosts in their debut novels. This event will be moderated by **Ameema Saeed**. Enjoy this Halloween themed bonus event for Grades 9-12.

Discussion Questions

1. In what ways does a ghost story allow its characters to explore grief?
2. How are teen relationships with family and friends impacted by loss? What impact might loss have on their mental health?
3. What are the elements you would expect to find in a coming-of-age novel?

CURRICULUM CONNECTIONS

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

Related Resources:

- [CBC Radio: Sophia Hannan on We Were Never Here - interview with the author](#)
- [Grief Resources for Teens - "Now What?" "Helping a Friend"](#)



As editors of the *Let Me Be Honest* anthology, **Michaela Allen** and **P. Anneka Lynch** enjoy helping teens find their creative voice. In this creative writing workshop, teens will learn about the power of storytelling by deconstructing a poem followed by a few self-reflective writing prompts. Students are encouraged to have materials for notetaking. This event will have a live audience Q&A. Grades 9-12.

Discussion Questions

1. Choose one of the themed sections below and write a piece (i.e., prose, poetry, art) that would fit the theme:
 - *I Think Sadness Finds You Too*
 - *I Wish That You Could Hold Me*
 - *For Now This Is What I Do*
 - *Maybe the Recipe Needed To Change*
 - *I'm Doing My Best and That's Good Enough*
2. Choose an emotion you have been feeling lately. Choose an art form that best helps you describe or represent your feelings.
3. Body mapping: recall a difficult time or event in your life. Make a simple sketch of a body, place words or images on the body to represent where you feel emotions in your body.

CURRICULUM CONNECTIONS

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

Related Resources:

- [Let Me Be Honest Book Review - Quill and Quire](#)
- [Let Me Be Honest Book Review - Kirkus](#)
- [Let Me Be Honest preview - Annick Press](#)



In this writing workshop, author and editor **Nafiza Azad** leads teens through her writing process, exploring how she edited the *A Thousand Nights* anthology and how she retells and remixes fairytales and folklore. This event will have includes an audience Q&A for live attendees. Grades 9-12.

Discussion Questions

1. How does a story get published? Do you think there is a difference depending on the type of text? (I.e., novel vs. Graphic novel)
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?

CURRICULUM CONNECTIONS

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

Related Resources:

- [A Thousand Nights Book Review - Kirkus](#)
- [A Thousand Nights Book Review - The Asian Cut](#)



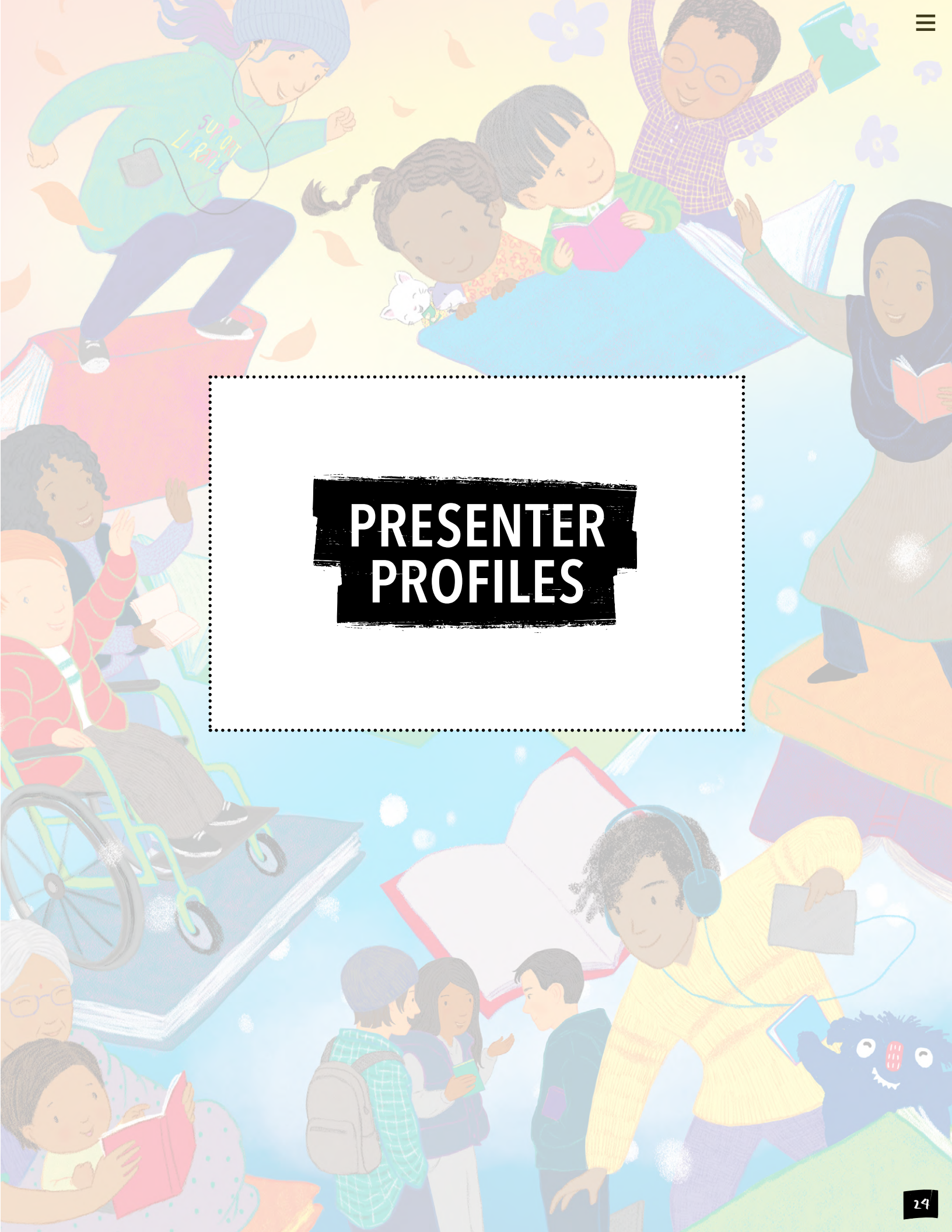
The Writer's Life series explores the journey of writers who balance their craft with fascinating careers, offering insights into the challenges, inspirations, and unique paths that shape a writer's life. This year, author **Emily Deibert** (*Bea Mullins Takes a Shot*) discusses what it's like being an ASTRONOMER and what her path to publishing was like. Grades 9-12.

Discussion Questions

1. **ACTIVITY:** Make a list of family members, friends, or people in your community and include the jobs they have had in their lives.
2. **ACTIVITY:** 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 want to have in the future? What might 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)



PRESENTER PROFILES

SID SHARP

TORONTO, ONTARIO



Sid Sharp is an author and illustrator from Toronto whose interests include folklore, mysterious unknowable things, and finding good sticks for their stick collection. Their first book, *The Wolf Suit*, was a *School Library Journal* Best Book of the Year and has been translated into eight languages. Their second book, *Bog Myrtle*, was a finalist for the Governor General's Literary Award. Sid's new book, *Midnight Manor*, was released in September 2026.

WEBSITE: sidsharp.com

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

FEATURED AT THE FESTIVAL



***Midnight Manor: A Backwards Bedtime Book* (2026)**

- 3–6 years
- ISBN-13: 978-1834021195
- Available as: Print and eBook

OTHER BOOKS

- *Bog Myrtle* (2024)
- *The Wolf Suit* (2022)

GAITRIE PERSAUD-KILLINGS

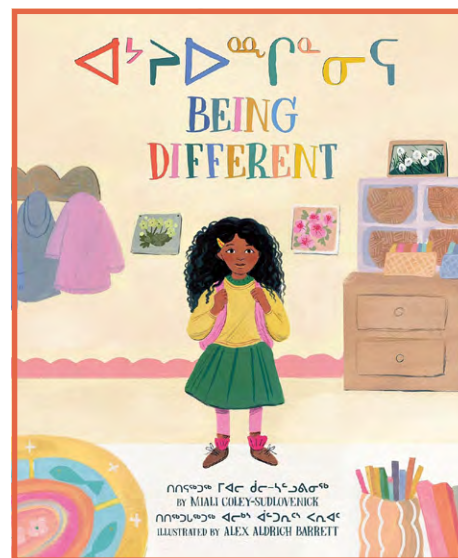
TORONTO, ONTARIO



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

FEATURED AT THE FESTIVAL



Being Different (2026)

By Miali Coley-Sudlovenick
and illustrated by Alex Aldrich Barrett

- 6–8 years
- ISBN-13: 978-1772276398
- Available as: Print

JACK WONG

HALIFAX, NOVA SCOTIA



Jack Wong is the author/illustrator of *When You Can Swim*, which received a Boston Globe-Horn Book Award, a Governor General's Literary Award, and the Marilyn Baillie Picture Book Award; *THE WORDS WE SHARE*, which received an Atlantic Book Award; and *All That Grows*. He also illustrated *The Music Inside Us: Yo-Yo Ma & His Gifts To The World* (written by James Howe). Jack lives in Kijipuktuk / Halifax, Nova Scotia.

WEBSITE: jackwong.ca

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

FEATURED AT THE FESTIVAL



Goodbye, Koi (2026)

- 4–8 years
- ISBN-13: 978-1338830996
- Available as: Print, eBook, and through Centre for Equitable Library Access as braille, DAISY text and audio, Word and ePub

OTHER BOOKS

- *The Music Inside Us* (2025)
- *All That Grows* (2024)
- *The Words We Share* (2023)

ASTRA MÁRTA

WINNIPEG, MANITOBA



***astra márta** is anishinaabe from manitoba and one of 35+/-k first nations survivors of the genocidal mandate by the government of canada, misnamed the 60s scoop. the mandate saw astra trafficked to an abusive wyt family in the unceded mohawk territory of tiohtià:ke (montreal) at the age of 8 months. reading, and eventually writing, helped her through the toughest times. which also led her to earn a ba in sociology/political science. she then earned an honours ba in religion, decolonizing academia's understanding of first nations "religions" with her thesis "the myth of myth and native mythology". this is her first book!*

FEATURED AT THE FESTIVAL



chi miigwech, big thank you (2026)

- 3–5 years
- ISBN-13: 978-1459837591
- Available as: Print and eBook

ROZ MACLEAN

VANCOUVER ISLAND, BRITISH COLUMBIA



Roz MacLean is an award winning author illustrator who lives and works on the traditional territories of the K'omoks Nation on Vancouver Island. Her work is inspired in part by the years she spent supporting students with disabilities in schools, as well as her dreams of a more inclusive and beautiful future. Her books include *More Than Words, Together, a Forest, Do You Know the Dark?* and *Some Body Every Body!* When she's not writing, drawing or painting she can usually be found in a forest or on a beach with her dog.

WEBSITE: rozmaclean.com

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

FEATURED AT THE FESTIVAL



Some Body, Every Body! (2026)

- 3–6 years
- ISBN-13: 978-1547618880
- Available as: Print and eBook

OTHER BOOKS

- *Do You Know the Dark?* (2026)
- *Together, A Forest* (2025)
- *More Than Words* (2023)

JAY ODJICK

QUEBEC



Jay Odjick is an artist, writer, and television producer from the Kitigan Zibi Anishinabeg Naation in Quebec. He is the artist of Blackflies and Bear For Breakfast. He is also the creator of Kagagi: The Raven and creator and writer of KABOOM: Blast Off.

INSTAGRAM: @jodjick

FEATURED AT THE FESTIVAL



Kaboom! Volume 1: Blast Off (2026)

- Ages 8–12
- ISBN-13: 978-1443198363
- Available as: Paperback and eBook

OTHER BOOKS

- *Munsch Mania!* (2025)
- *Munsch-a-thon* (2023)
- *A Bunch of Munsch* (2020)

DANNY NEVILLE

OTTAWA, ONTARIO



Danny Neville grew up in rural Ontario, surrounded by fields and farms. As an elementary school educator and teacher-librarian, he has lived and worked in various countries around the world including the UK, Japan, Colombia, Egypt, Brazil, Belgium, and Canada. He is actively involved in the world of school libraries and children's literature as a volunteer with the Ontario Library Association and member of the Writer's Union of Canada, CANSCAIP, and SCBWI. He lives in Ottawa with his husband and daughters.

WEBSITE: dannyneville.com

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

FEATURED AT THE FESTIVAL



Little Bee: The Storytime Extravaganza (2026)

- Ages 6–9
- ISBN-13: 978-1834021256
- Available as: Paperback and eBook

OTHER BOOKS

- *Little Bee: The Buzz About the Party* (2026)

LINDA TRINH

WINNIPEG, MANITOBA

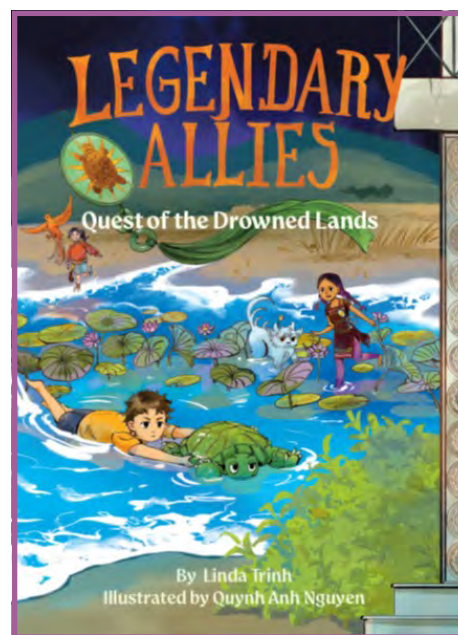


Linda Trinh is a Vietnamese Canadian author and she writes for kids and grown-ups. Her writing explores identity, cultural background, and spirituality. She is the author of the award-winning early chapter book series, *The Nguyen Kids*. Her newest books, *The Healer and the Phoenix* and *Quest of the Drowned Lands*, are part of *The Legendary Allies* fantasy book series. She lives in Winnipeg, Manitoba with her family.

WEBSITE: lindaytrinh.com

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

FEATURED AT THE FESTIVAL



Quest of the Drowned Lands (2026)

- Ages 7–11
- ISBN-13: 978-1834021096
- Available as: Paperback and eBook

OTHER BOOKS

- *The Healer and the Phoenix* (2026)
- *The Journey of the Ancestors' Gifts* (2023)
- *The Mystery of the Painted Fan* (2023)

SARENA NANUA AND SASHA NANUA

ONTARIO



Sarena Nanua and Sasha Nanua are twin sisters living in Ontario, Canada. Born on Diwali ten minutes apart from each other, they grew up loving stories about twins and magic, and began writing books together when they were nine years old. They are graduates of the English and Professional Writing programs at the University of Toronto and are the authors of the *Spirit Service* series!

WEBSITE: sarenasashabooks.com

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

FEATURED AT THE FESTIVAL



***Spirit Service: Twice the Trouble* (2026)**

- Ages 8–12
- ISBN-13: 978-1665955201
- Available as: Print, eBook, and through Centre for Equitable Library Access as braille, DAISY text and audio, Word and ePub

OTHER BOOKS

- *A Riddle of Thorns* (2025)
- *Spirit Service* (2025)
- *Daughters of the Dawn* (2022)

KAI CHENG THOM

TORONTO, ONTARIO



Kai Cheng Thom is an award-winning writer, performer, and creative arts facilitator based in tkaronto/Toronto whose work delves deeply into the themes of revolutionary love, transformative justice, and healing from collective trauma. Kai Cheng's work has received multiple literary awards, including the Stonewall Honor Book Award, the Publishing Triangle Award, and the Dayne Ogilvie Prize for LGBT Writers.

WEBSITE: kaichengthom.com

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

FEATURED AT THE FESTIVAL



***The Shapeshifter's Guide to Gym Class* (2026)**

- Ages 8–12
- ISBN-13: 978-1668210871
- Available as: Print, eBook, and through Centre for Equitable Library Access as braille, DAISY text and audio, Word and ePub

OTHER BOOKS

- *For Laika* (2021)
- *From the Stars in the Sky to the Fish in the Sea* (2017)

OLIVIA PILLAI QUINNEY

STIRLING, ONTARIO

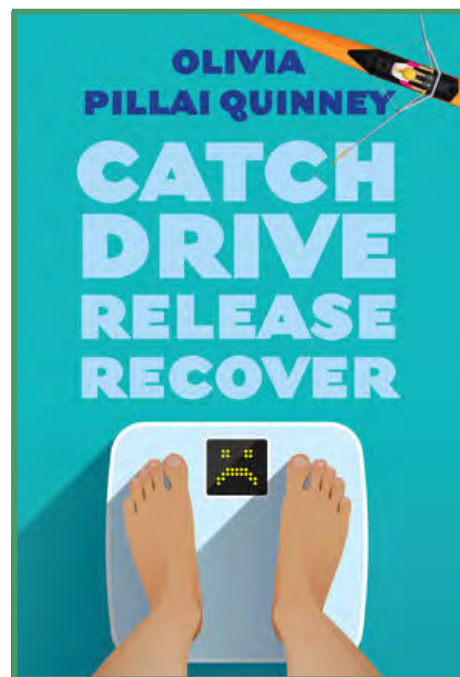


Olivia Pillai Quinney is a writer, speaker, educator, and advocate dedicated to supporting individuals and families affected by eating disorders. Drawing on her lived experience, she brings authenticity and compassion to her work. She is the author of the middle-grade novel *Catch, Drive, Release, Recover*, inspired by her recovery journey. Olivia serves on the Board of Directors for the National Initiative for Eating Disorders (NIED) and previously contributed to its Education and Communications Committees. She also serves on the Board of Directors for *equilaw*. As an elementary school teacher, she is passionate about education, advocacy, and empowering others.

WEBSITE: oliviapillaiquinney.com

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

FEATURED AT THE FESTIVAL



Catch, Drive, Release, Recover (2026)

- Ages 9–12
- ISBN-13: 978-1770868496
- Available as: Print and eBook

RUTH OHI

TORONTO, ONTARIO

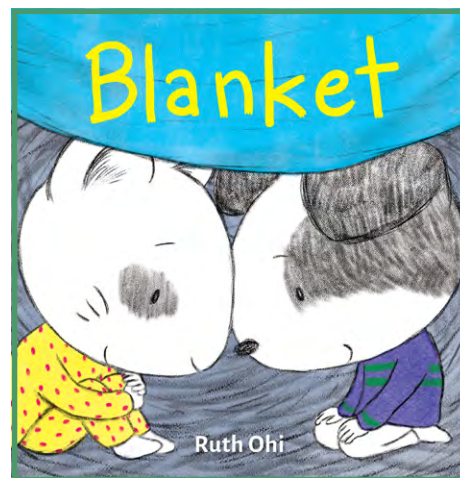
ILLUSTRATOR
IN RESIDENCE

Ruth Ohi is the illustrator of over 60 children's books, 23 of which she is also the author. Her books have been published in many countries and shortlisted for numerous awards. Her latest author/illustrated book is *Blanket*, a Quill & Quire Books of the Year Selection, an International Board on Books for Young People Silent Books Selection (Canada), CBC Best Canadian Books for Kids & Young Adults Selection, and a Canadian Children's Book Centre Starred Best Book. Other notable author/illustrated books include *Choose Kindness*, *Scribble*, and the *Fox and Squirrel Series*.

WEBSITE: ruthohi.com

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

FEATURED AT THE FESTIVAL



Blanket (2022)

- Ages 3–6
- ISBN-13: 978-1773066141
- Available as: Print, eBook, and through Centre for Equitable Library Access as braille, DAISY text and audio, Word and ePub

OTHER BOOKS

- *Choose Kindness* (2021)
- *No Help Wanted* (2019)
- *Scribble* (2016)

ANJALI JOSHI

TORONTO, ONTARIO



Anjali Joshi is a science teacher and curriculum developer by day, and a children's book author by night. She has published over ten books for children, sharing her love of science and storytelling through her books. She holds a master's degree in STEM education from the University of Oxford. Anjali lives in Toronto with her family.

WEBSITE: authoranjalijoshi.com

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

FEATURED AT THE FESTIVAL



Built Like a Bug (2026)

- Ages 8-12
- ISBN-13: 978-1834020310
- Available as: Print and eBook

OTHER BOOKS

- *Fast Break* (2026)
- *Shiva's Magic Mantra* (2024)
- *The Candle and the Flame* (2021)

SOPHIA HANNAN

ONTARIO



Sophia Hannan is a Canadian author of YA fiction. When she's not writing about ghosts and the girls they haunt, she can be found studying English literature and forcing her friends to watch horror movies with her. *We Were Never Here* is her debut novel.

WEBSITE: sophiahannan.com

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

FEATURED AT THE FESTIVAL



We Were Never Here (2026)

- Ages: 14+
- ISBN-13: 978-1665958332
- Available as: Print, eBook, and through Centre for Equitable Library Access as braille, DAISY text and audio, Word and ePub

SAM WILKET

TORONTO, ONTARIO



Sam Wilket's debut novel, *A Good Daughter's Ghost* is a YA paranormal horror story about a babysitter who longs for a life that might destroy her. Sam's writing is influenced by her experiences as a second-generation Canadian of white British and Chinese descent, a member of a blended family, and a voracious reader with wide-ranging taste. She lives in Toronto.

WEBSITE: samwilket.com

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

FEATURED AT THE FESTIVAL



***A Good Daughter's Ghost* (2026)**

- Ages: 14+
- ISBN-13: 978-1834021157
- Available as: Print and eBook

MICHAELA ALLEN

TORONTO, ONTARIO



Michaela Allen, Manager of Youth Justice at TNG Community Services, has 20+ years of experience supporting justice involved youth in underserved communities. She has innovated and expanded creative, culturally informed programs across the schools and communities in Toronto including Game Changers Conflict Resolution and Restorative Justice Program and Brick and Sole, Air Force 1 Sneaker Design Project. These programs support thousands of youth each year, and truly makes a difference in reducing violence in systemically disadvantaged schools and communities. She has been able to showcase the great talent of the youth she supports through the Anthology, Let Me Be Honest.

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

FEATURED AT THE FESTIVAL



Let Me Be Honest (2026)

- Ages: 14+
- ISBN-13: 978-1834020426
- Available as: Print and eBook

P. ANNEKA LYNCH

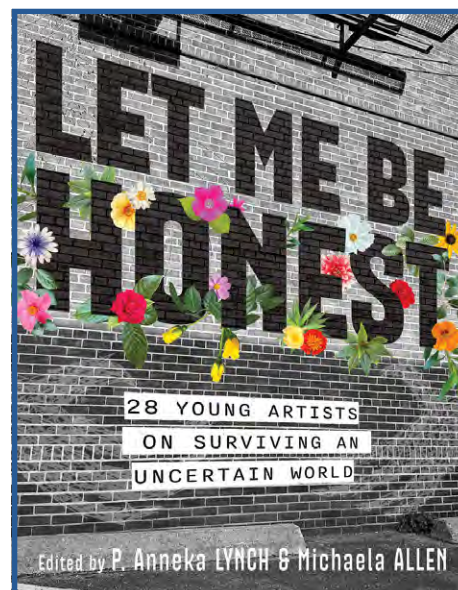
TORONTO, ONTARIO



P. Anneka Lynch is a Grenadian-Canadian artist. She is an advocate for youth, a poet, writer, and painter with a profound commitment to making a positive difference in her community. Anneka is a Youth Justice Worker in the city of Toronto, with a passion for youth programming, employment advocacy, and equitable education for young people.

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

FEATURED AT THE FESTIVAL



Let Me Be Honest (2026)

- Ages: 14+
- ISBN-13: 978-1834020426
- Available as: Print and eBook

NAFIZA AZAD

EDMONTON, ALBERTA

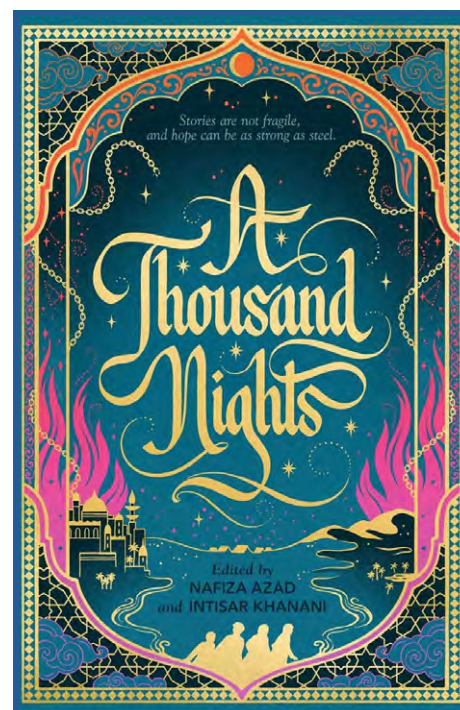


Nafiza Azad writes books about girls, magic, and the world. She lives in Edmonton, Alberta with her family which includes a cat named Biscuit.

WEBSITE: nafizaazad.com

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

FEATURED AT THE FESTIVAL



***A Thousand Nights* (2026)**

- Ages: 12+
- ISBN-13: 978-1536241549
- Available as: Print and eBook

OTHER BOOKS

- *Road of the Lost* (2022)
- *The Wild Ones* (2021)
- *The Candle and the Flame* (2019)

EMILY DEIBERT

WATERLOO, ONTARIO

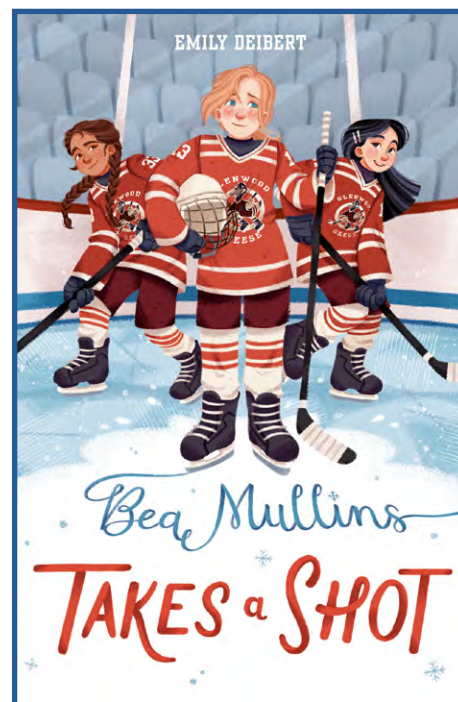


Emily Deibert is the author of the middle grade contemporary novel *Bea Mullins Takes A Shot*, which was a 2026 Silver Birch Fiction Award Nominee. She was born in North Vancouver, spent most of her life in Toronto, and now lives in Waterloo, where she writes children's books by day and works as an astronomer by night. In her spare time, she enjoys playing ice hockey—but like her novel's protagonist, she's not very good at it.

WEBSITE: emilydeibert.com

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

FEATURED AT THE FESTIVAL



Bea Mullins Takes a Shot (2025)

- Ages: 8–12
- ISBN-13: 978-0593808894
- Available as: Print, eBook, and through Centre for Equitable Library Access as braille, DAISY text and audio, Word and ePub

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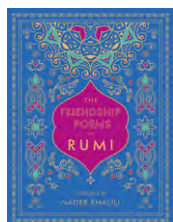


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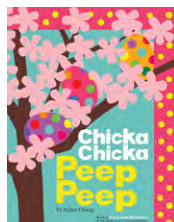
FESTIVAL BOOK LIST



THE FRIENDSHIP POEMS OF RUMI

Translated by Nader Khalili
All Ages

978-1577152194
Wellfleet Press



CHICKA CHICKA PEEP PEEP

By Julien Chung
4-8 years

978-1665990646
Simon and Schuster Canada



GOODBYE, KOI

By Jack Wong
4-8 years

978-1338830996
Scholastic Canada



SOME BODY, EVERY BODY!

By Roz MacLean
3-6 years

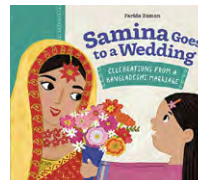
978-1547618880
Bloomsbury Children's Books



OTO AND THE LITTLE YELLOW TRAIN

By Suharu Ogawa
4-7 years

978-1834021300
Annick Press



SAMINA GOES TO A WEDDING

By Farida Zaman
5-8 years

978-1771476591
OwlKids Books



CHI MIIGWECH, BIG THANK YOU

By astra mártá and illustrated by Jordan Stranger
3-5 years

978-1459837591
Orca Book Publishers



BEAUTIFUL BLACK BOY

By Sophia Robinson and illustrated by Ken Daley
4-8 years

978-1338864649
Scholastic Books



BEING DIFFERENT

By Miali Coley-Sudlovenick and illustrated by Alex Aldrich Barrett
6-8 years

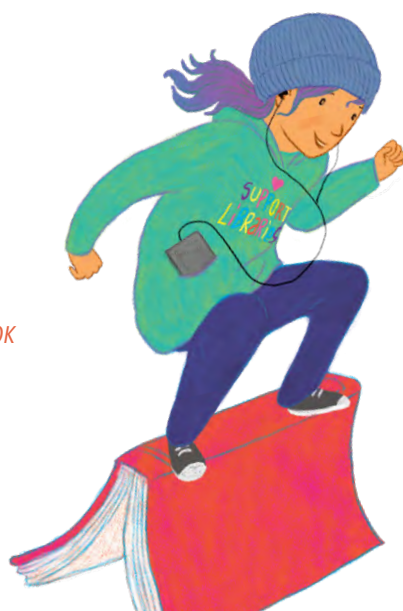
978-1772276398
Inhabit Media



BLANKET

By Ruth Ohi
3-6 years

978-1773066141
Groundwood Books



LITTLE BEE: THE STORYTIME EXTRAVAGANZA

By Danny Neville and illustrated by Colleen McKeown
6-9 years

978-1834021256
Annick Press



MIDNIGHT MANOR: A BACKWARDS BEDTIME BOOK

By Sid Sharp
3-6 years

978-1834021195
Annick Press



QUEST OF THE DROWNED LANDS

By Linda Trinh and illustrated by Quynh Anh Nguyen
7-11 years

978-1834021096
Annick Press

PRIMARY

JUNIOR

INTERMEDIATE

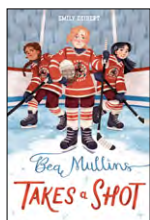
TEENS

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book fest



FESTIVAL BOOK LIST



BEA MULLINS TAKES A SHOT

By Emily Deibert
8-12 years

978-0593808894
Penguin Random House
Canada



THE SHAPESHIFTER'S GUIDE TO GYM CLASS

By Kai Cheng Thom
8-12 years

978-1668210871
Simon and Schuster Canada



LET ME BE HONEST

Edited by Michaela Allen
and P. Anneka Lynch
14+ years

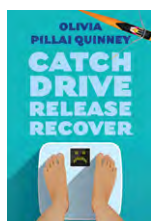
978-1834020426
Annick Press



BUILT LIKE A BUG

By Anjali Joshi
and illustrated by Kathleen Ng
8-12 years

978-1834020310
Annick Press



CATCH, DRIVE, RELEASE, RECOVER

By Olivia Pillai Quinney
9-12 years

978-1770868496
DCB Young Readers



WE WERE NEVER HERE

By Sophia Hannan
14+ years

978-1665958332
Simon and Schuster Canada



SPIRIT SERVICE: TWICE THE TROUBLE

By Sarena Nanua & Sasha
Nanua
8-12 years

978-1665955201
Simon and Schuster Canada



A THOUSAND NIGHTS

Edited by Nafiza Azad
and Intisar Khanani
12+ years

978-1536241549
Candlewick Press



A GOOD DAUGHTER'S GHOST

By Sam Wilket
14+ years

978-1834021157
Annick Press



KABOOM! VOLUME 1: BLAST OFF

By Jay Odjick
and illustrated by KC Oster
8-12 years

978-1443198363
Scholastic Canada



FRENCH LANGUAGE



K-BOUM! : DÉCOLLAGE

By Jay Odjick
and illustrated by KC Oster
9-12 years

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